



SILENT TREATMENT

Mayor blocked from speaking at funeral for Queens soldier



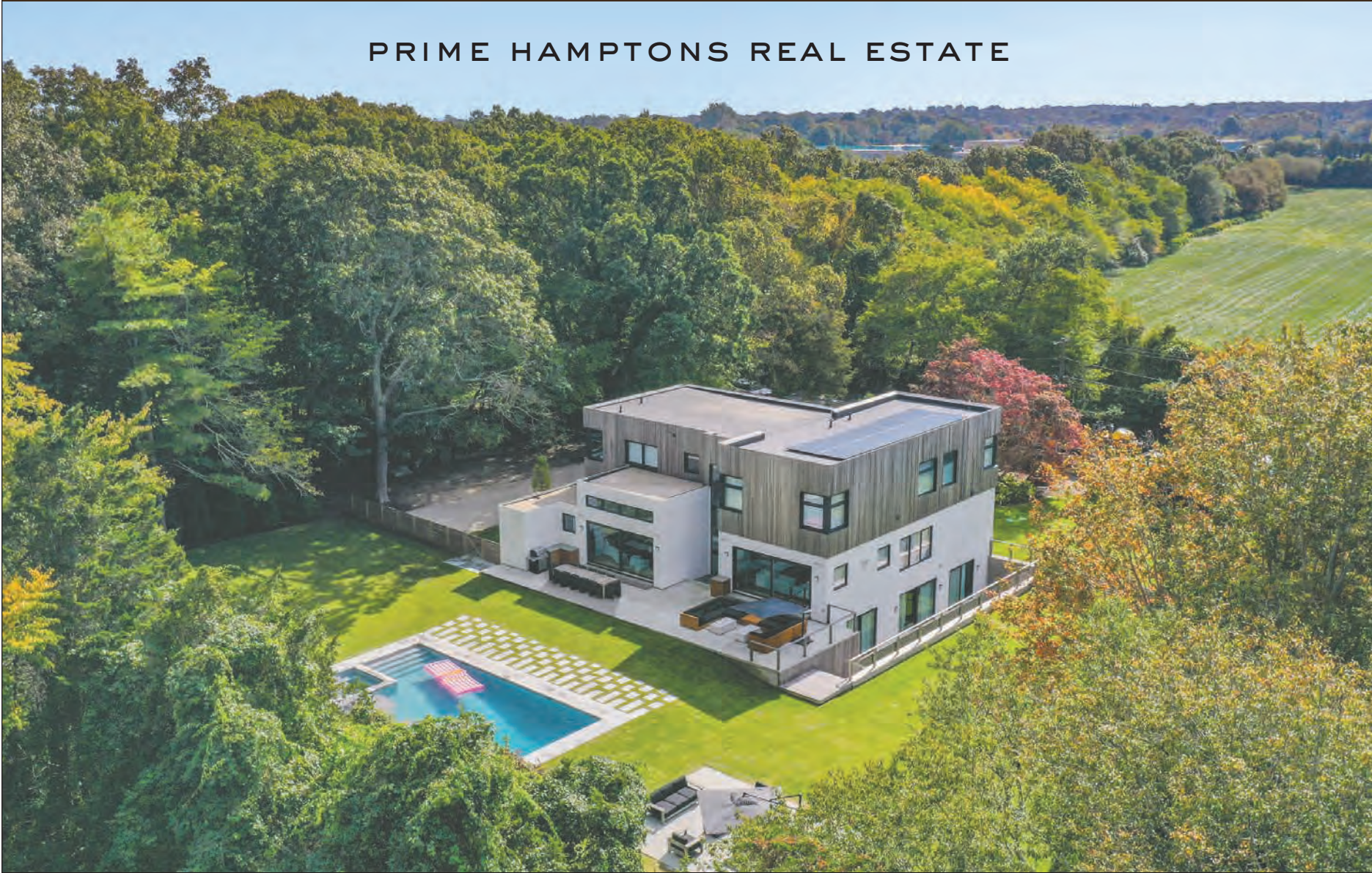
Family and politicians gathered to pay respects yesterday to Angel Rampersad, who was killed by an Iranian attack. But even though Mayor Mamdani had written a speech, he was not called upon by her family to deliver a eulogy.

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**Can't
\$TOP
RiRi!**

badgalriri/instagram

Rihanna knows how to halt traffic.

The pop star-turned-mogul shared several new lingerie pictures for her Savage X Fenty campaign on Friday, posing with a stop sign in a black-and-white lace set.

She paired her outfit with plenty of diamonds, including a dazzling Fernando Jorge ring worth \$42,000. Rihanna also wore a gorgeous The Back Vault necklace set with more than 40 carats of Old European diamonds, modeled after an antique Victorian-era design and priced at a cool \$123,500.

— Avery Matera



THESE 'SPIES' SUCK!

'Enemy' robo vacs

By AURIELLE WEISS

Your vacuum could be a national security risk.

The Federal Communications Commission has officially added foreign-produced robotic vacuums to its banned list — as well as “advanced robotic devices,” some of which include mobile robots like humanoids that can walk and dance.

“The networked capabilities of advanced robotic systems create extensive vulnerabilities and vectors for attacks that can manipulate the data and physical operation of the advanced robotic system,” the agency found.

According to the FCC’s updated policy, relying on advanced robotic devices made outside the country leaves Americans vulnerable, as many devices can collect data to surveil citizens, and “enhance the capabilities of foreign intelligence services, or to remotely commandeer the robots.”

The new restrictions apply only to newly authorized devices and will not impact any robotic vacuums already used in homes around the country.

For retailers, the new rules don’t prevent them from continuing to sell, import or market models already ap-

proved by the FCC.

The move comes after the FCC updated its “Covered List” — a set of communications equipment and services that pose an “unacceptable risk to the national security of the US or the safety and security of US persons,” the agency said.

Overseas production

No specific brands were identified; however, top manufacturers who sell robotic vacuums in the US, like iRobot (left), SharkNinja, Dyson, Samsung and LG produce them in China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Roomba was one of the first robot vacuum cleaners made by the American company iRobot in 2002, but is now owned by Shenzhen Picea Robotics in China.

In recent months, the FCC has taken similar action against routers — electronic transmission boxes connecting computers, phones and other devices to the internet — produced in foreign countries.

The agency found those supplied to the US by foreign countries could pose a supply chain vulnerability and may disrupt the “economy, critical infrastructure and national defense.”



Honoring a 'real hero'

Her 'ultimate sacrifice'

By MATTHEW FISCHETTI,
KATHERINE DONLEVY
and NATALIE O'NEILL

The beloved Queens soldier killed in an overseas Iranian attack was remembered as a courageous leader with "a laugh that could heal your soul" — as her tearful mom declared her "a real hero" at her funeral Friday.

Throngs of mourners flooded the Calvary Assembly of God in Ozone Park to honor the life of Sgt. Angel "Sarah" Rampersad, 28, as her heartbroken loved ones said their final goodbyes.

"My daughter was a real hero and I will miss her dearly," Rampersad's mother, Carol Acevedo, said between gut-wrenching sobs.

"Love your kids. . . . Embrace them, cherish them and be there for them," she told the church crowd of hundreds. "I don't have my Sarah anymore."

Friends giving eulogies described the young soldier as a selfless and adventurous champion of underdogs who had a playful sarcastic sense of humor.

'Feel your warmth'

"She showed up for the people she loved and never expected anything in return," said youth group friend Kimberly Ann. "She made a lot of people feel like they belong."

She added, "Sarah was crazy in the best way — endlessly adventurous and completely relentless. She told me, 'Do what you have to, but just make sure you're having fun.'"

In another emotional speech, a friend called her, "A fallen soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice with pride."

"She had a laugh that could heal your soul," the friend said. "We will continue to feel your warmth in the sun and see your smile in the stars."

During the funeral, devastated family members, neighbors and fellow soldiers brushed away tears while Ram-

persad's favorite gospel songs loudly echoed through the church.

An NYPD-flanked motorcade spanning several blocks, meanwhile, commemorated her death on Long Island, where she was buried.

"She could talk to people in her rank, above her rank, and they would accept it since it was the way she did it," Daisy Davis-Credle, president of the Queens Sunday School Association, told The Post after the funeral.

'She was very loved'

"It's not what you do, it's how you do what you do. And she knew how to do that — they listened to her."

The Ozone Park native was one of three US soldiers reportedly killed July 17 when Iranians rained missiles on the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan.

Rampersad was given a hero's sendoff before she was buried at the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale. NYPD cops in uniform carried her coffin out of the church and into a hearse, while a police procession lined the Queens streets and saluted the fallen soldier.

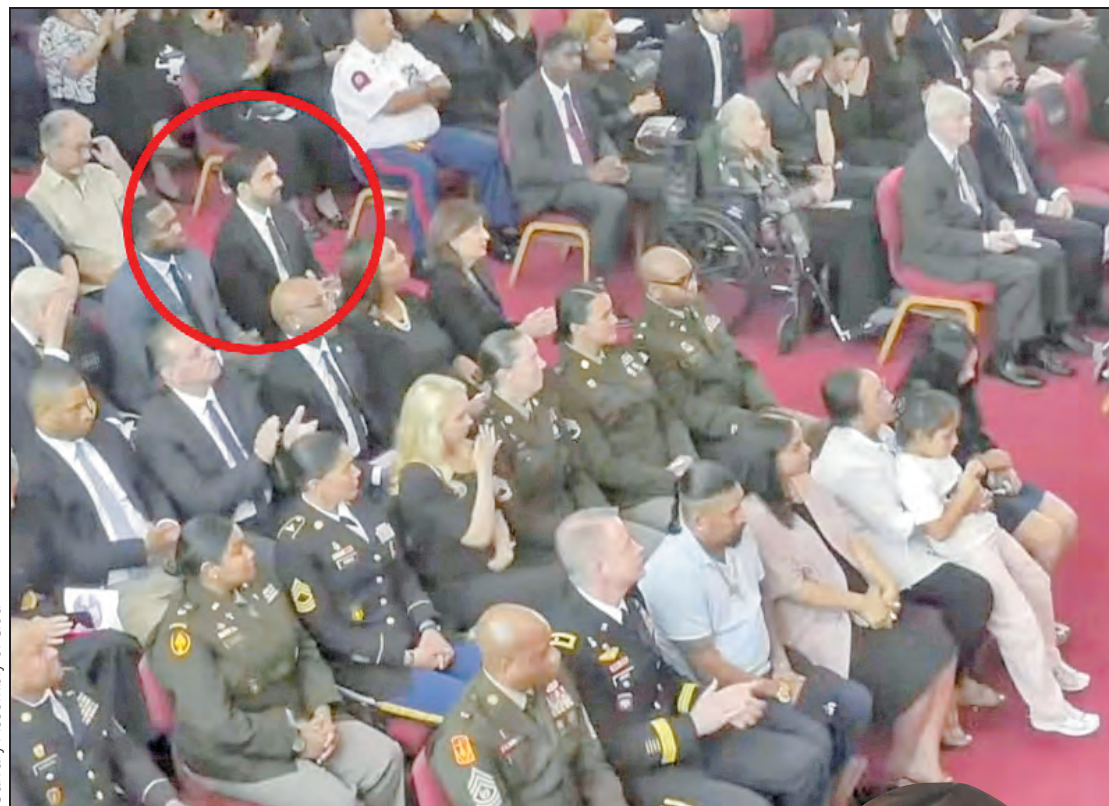
"It was a fantastic celebration of life," said Alphonse Ranni, a Vietnam War veteran and member of Chapter 32 of Vietnam Veterans of America.

"She was very loved. She was well-known in her neighborhood, very respected."

Ranni — who earned two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts for his service — said his group was just one of several that made sure to pay their respects to the fallen hero.

Even strangers peppered amongst the crowd paid their respects, telling The Post they felt encouraged to show up for the slain soldier who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

"She served as a hero. She died as a hero," one attendee, who declined to share her name, said.



Calvary Assembly of God



Stephen Yang for NY Post



Reuters

MOVING: Gov. Hochul and other dignitaries were called to speak at the fall hero's funeral in Ozone Park. "From a distance, I feel like [Rampersad] could be one of my daughters," Hochul said.

Zo passed over for eulogy

By CRAIG McCARTHY, MATTHEW FISCHETTI, KATHERINE DONLEVY and MATT TROUTMAN

Mayor Mamdani was snubbed from eulogizing Army Sgt. Angel Sarah Rampersad at the fallen soldier's Queens funeral Friday — and the embarrassing scene unfolded in real time as he fumed while waiting in vain to give his speech, sources revealed.

Mamdani, who was relegated to the fourth row in the Ozone Park church, appeared to be reviewing his planned remarks on an iPad while Gov. Hochul and other dignitaries, including Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, were called to speak, a

source in attendance said.

"They kept calling names and then he was never called," the source said.

'Limited distractions'

"Then he looked over at his staff, frustrated and seemed angry that he didn't speak. When he realized his name wasn't being called, he looked at his staff angrily and then eventually put his tablet away."

City Hall ignored multiple requests for comment over the humiliating turn of events.

The diss came as Mamdani — an avowed democratic socialist who's harshly critical of Israel and

the US war against Iran — remains a divisive political figure both within New York City and across the nation.

Another source involved with the funeral's planning said Rampersad's family is pro-President Trump and didn't want Mamdani to speak.

Yet another insider confirmed that Mamdani's outspoken lefty politics ultimately led him to lose his customary mayoral role as a speaker during a hometown soldier's funeral.

"The family is more conservative and wanted to limit any political distractions," the insider said.

Rampersad, 28, was among three US soldiers killed July 17 during an

MUM-DANI: Army Sgt. Angel Sarah Rampersad (right), a Queens native, was laid to rest Friday with Mayor Mamdani (circled left) relegated to the fourth row and skipped over for a planned eulogy.



MAYOR LEFT SPEECH-LESS

at funeral of Queens GI killed in Mideast war

Iranian missile attack on Muwafiq Salati Air Base in Jordan. Rampersad grew up in an Ozone Park family, graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and joined the Army, following in the footsteps of her uncle.

'Remarks as prepared'

It's unclear whether the young mayor visited Rampersad's kin in the days following her death as is customary for Big Apple leaders to do. Nothing about a visit prior to Friday's funeral appeared on his official public schedule or his indefatigable social-media accounts.

Hizzoner did, however, fill his past week "siteseeing" in a dou-

ble-decker bus as part of a housing press stunt and sat for a few interviews with national publications in an attempt to further raise his public profile.

Mamdani — who in recent days has been slammed for ignoring everyday New Yorker's problems, including the seven residents who've died from Legionnaire's disease — also found time to tout his far-off city-run grocery stores, even fundraising off the efforts.

In lieu of actually speaking at Rampersad's funeral, Mamdani's press team blasted out his planned speech, identifying it as "remarks as prepared."

"It is often said that our fallen 'gave their tomorrows for our to-

day,' " Mamdani planned to say. "Sergeant Rampersad had tomorrows waiting for her: birthdays, ordinary mornings, evenings spent with her loved ones. But she gave every one of them up so that we could have ours — so that we could stand here today, safe and protected."

No-Mam 'surprise'

Hundreds of family members, neighbors, fellow soldiers and even strangers attended Rampersad's funeral in Calvary Assembly of God, where they brushed away tears as the fallen hero's favorite gospel songs loudly echoed through the halls of the pristine church.

"She could talk to people in her rank, above her rank, and they would accept it since it was the way she did it," Daisy Davis-Credle, president of the Queens Sunday School Association, said after the funeral.

"It's not what you do, it's how you do what you do. And she knew how to do that — they listened to her."

Hochul gave remarks during the service, followed by Ozone Park Residents Block Association President Sam Esposito, state Sen. Joseph Addabbo Jr. (D-Queens) and Richards.

"I feel after reading and admiring this woman from a distance, I feel like she could be one of my

daughters," said Hochul.

Mamdani, whose less-than-prime seat was near first-term City Councilman Frank Morano (R-Staten Island), fumed in silence after his snub became apparent.

"I was surprised the mayor didn't speak," said Morano, who is far from a Mamdani ally. "I didn't understand why they would have lower-level officials speak and not the mayor."

After the sendoff, NYPD cops carried Rampersad's coffin from the church and into a hearse, which joined a blocks-long police procession to her eventual resting place in Long Island.

cmccarthy@nypost.com

Legion of errors

By CRAIG MCCARTHY
and MATT TROUTMAN

Tone-deaf officials in Mayor Mamdani's administration declared a Legionnaires' disease cluster on the Upper East Side had "ended" Friday — as frustrated locals said they felt abandoned during the outbreak that so far killed seven people.

The premature victory lap not only unfolded as five New Yorkers remained hospitalized, but also as records revealed city officials hadn't inspected a single potentially disease-harboring cooling tower during June. And just half of the roughly 160 buildings in the affected area have been fully inspected so far.

Upper East Side resident Saundra Coleman said Mamdani and his administration were "absent" as the disease — and fear of exposure — gripped the neighborhood through July's sweaty weeks.

"We just feel like we're just left to die," she said.

Department of Health officials convened a virtual news conference Friday morning — a day after the seventh victim died — to declare the 14-day incubation period for new Legionnaires' cases had ended. They also blasted out a press release.

No new symptoms of Legionnaires' disease popped up during that two-week span, suggesting the cooling tower that fostered the deadly bacterium had been eliminated amid a disinfection effort, officials said.

'Joker' Mam

The Upper East Side's ZIP codes of 10028, 10075 and 10128 no longer posed an elevated risk of exposure, the officials said.

But as health officials patted themselves on the back, five people lingered in critical condition with the disease, local pols said — leaving the grim potential that the final toll could match the 12



BLEW IT: Health Commissioner Dr. Alister Martin speaks last month amid a Legionnaires' outbreak in buildings including the Guggenheim Museum (right).

City ripped over UES outbreak victory lap

There are seven people dead. . . . I am disgusted by this press release, 'put a medal on me' attitude.

—Valerie Mason, president of the local community board



TNS/AP/CA via Reuters Connect

deaths from the city's deadliest past outbreak in 2015.

And Mamdani, rather than huddling with the still-reeling community, spent his morning in The Bronx for a photo op at the stairs popularized in the 2019 film "Joker."

Valerie Mason, president of the local community board, noted the affected ZIP codes included Mamdani's new home of Gracie Mansion.

She cast the city's response as lackadaisical, especially after last year's Legionnaires' outbreak in Harlem that killed five people.

"First of all, there are seven people dead," she said. "There is

no victory lap to be taken here or patting on the back.

"I am disgusted by this press release, 'put a medal on me' attitude. There is no applause warranted here."

Mason contended that health officials only ramped up efforts to disinfect cooling under pressure from locals after the disease popped up as July dawned.

City records also indicate that virtually no cooling tower inspections in three affected ZIP codes took place as the weather warmed.

Just one building was inspected during May, with no summonses at all issued, records show.

And records show no sign whatsoever of any inspections or fines being conducted or issued during June.

When pressed by reporters, Corrine Schiff, the deputy commissioner for environmental health, defended the inspection program.

"Our inspection work is city-wide," she said. "I can't confirm what you have here in terms of the cluster area, but the work that we do in our routine work is citywide."

Schiff also confirmed that half of the roughly 160 buildings in the affected area had been fully inspected so far.

'Killer' dodges kid's kin in court

The career criminal charged with killing an innocent 12-year-old son of a retired NYPD cop in The Bronx was too much of a coward to face the victim's family, who packed the courtroom Friday for the routine hearing.

William Ferrer, 45, was a no-show in Bronx Criminal Court — days after he was slapped with a slew of charges, including second-degree murder, for allegedly killing 12-year-old Jacob Freytes and wounding two others last Saturday in Mount Eden.

Ferrer, who was brought to the courthouse by the Department of Correction, had his appearance waived last minute by his attorney Raymond Gazer as Freytes' mom and dad, along with other family members, sat in the courtroom to face their son's alleged killer.

Freytes, the son of retired NYPD Detective. Sgt. Jesus Freytes, was caught in the crossfire during the afternoon gunfire outside Wanda Deli Grocery — where he was struck in the chest by a bullet and died later at a Bronx hospital, prosecutors say.

Bronx Criminal Court Judge Joseph Sorrentino ordered the suspect to remain remanded on Rikers Island until his next court appearance, on Sept. 17.

Ferrer is charged with murder and related raps, and faces up to life in prison.

Loved ones and politicians, including Mayor Mamdani, attended a vigil for Freytes Friday night at the scene of the senseless shooting. "This has been a murder that has shaken this entire neighborhood, borough, and city," Mamdani said.

The youngster's mom, Martinez, shed tears for her slain son as she spoke to the crowd.

"I would have never thought his life would end here," she said.

Khristina Narizhnaya
and Kyle Schnitzer

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■ Evening Take-5 Fri.:
4, 7, 13, 15, 31

■ Pick-10 Fri.: **13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 23, 33, 37, 40, 47, 50, 52, 55, 57, 60, 72, 74, 75, 79, 80**

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2, 6, 28, 44, 45; MB: 2
■ Mega Millions Fri.: **4, 18, 26, 43, 51; Mega Ball: 4**

NEW JERSEY

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■ Pick-4 Fri.: **8873; Fireball: 5**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Fri.: **1, 5, 9, 15, 23; Xtra: x2**

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■ Play-3 Fri.: **238; Wild: 1**
■ Play-4 Fri.: **8295; Wild: 2**
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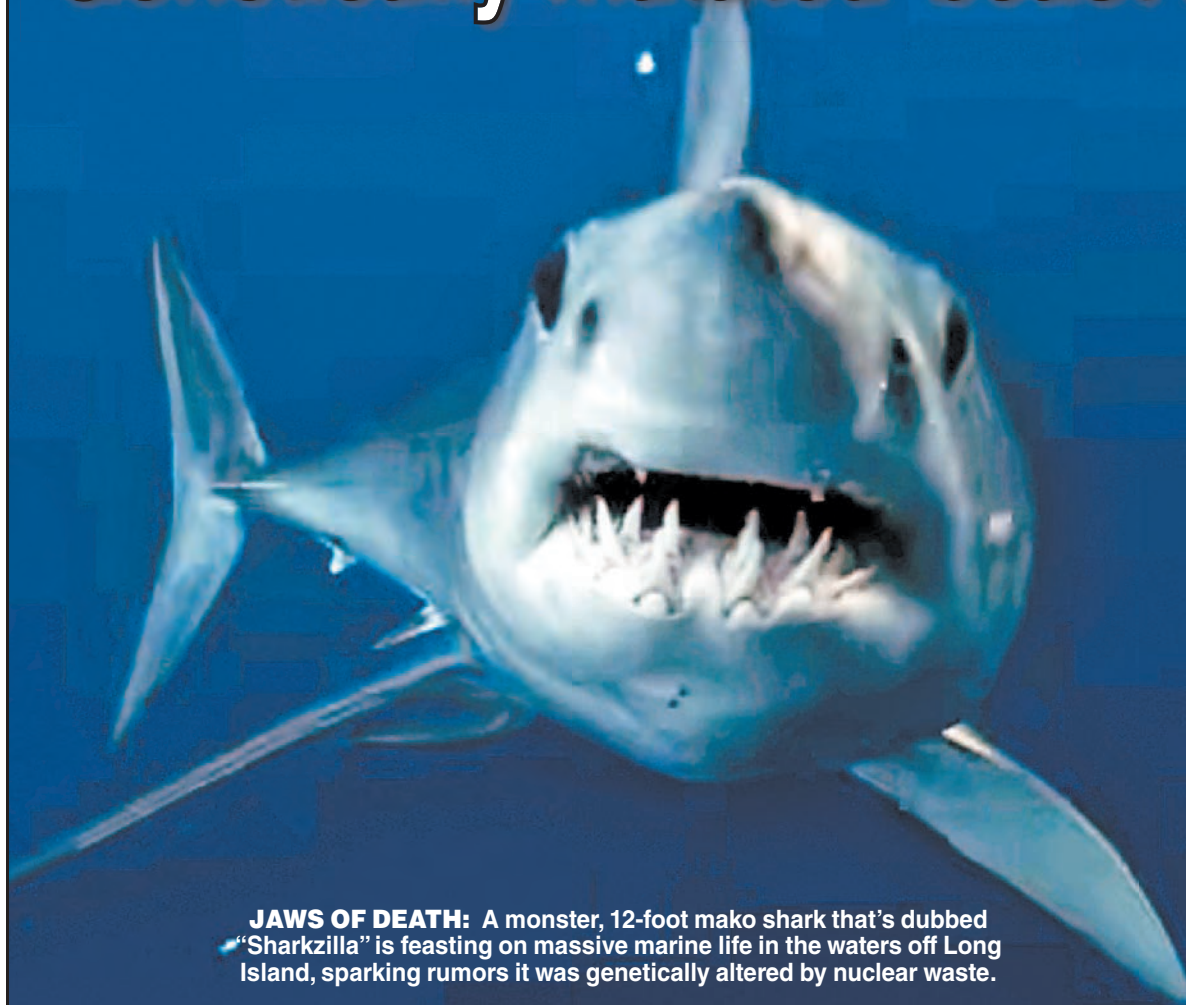
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'Genetically mutated' beast haunts LI waters



JAWS OF DEATH: A monster, 12-foot mako shark that's dubbed "Sharkzilla" is feasting on massive marine life in the waters off Long Island, sparking rumors it was genetically altered by nuclear waste.

'SHARKZILLA' ON RAMPAGE

By NATALIE O'NEILL

This monster shark's going totally nuclear on New York's coastline!

A massive, nearly 12-foot man-eater has been wreaking havoc on large marine animals in the waters off Long Island — sparking a hunt for the predator and a wild theory that she mutated from a nuclear waste leak.

The giant mako shark — dubbed "Sharkzilla" by experts — reportedly sunk her teeth into a humpback whale near Montauk, leaving it with a 2-foot bite mark.

She also chomped a grey seal, giving it a 22-inch gash, and attacked 400-pound tuna in the same area, according to a new Discovery Channel "Shark Week" episode that aired Friday night.

The injuries are a sign that humungous sharks are returning to the region, marine scientist Craig O'Connell said on the show, "Sharkzilla Takes New York."

In a chilling twist, O'Connell also floated the theory that decades-old barrels of leaking nuclear waste could have genetically mutated the animal into a super-shark, and caused other wildlife to morph in a vast underwater canyon, the outlet reported.

"In the late 1960s, they dumped 15,000 barrels of nuclear waste in the Hudson Canyon," O'Connell said. "Ten years later, they went out to check on these barrels, and they were all leaking."

"Radioactive leaks could

be impacting wildlife, even top predators," he said.

"If animals are subjected to nuclear waste, this could cause genetic mutations and abnormal growth. If this predator is genetically altered, it could be faster, stronger and deadlier than any predator on Earth. We are calling it Sharkzilla," he said.

On the show, O'Connell frantically hunted the shark in order to tag and collect its tissue for radioactive testing.

'Monster sharks'

O'Connell also said there are signs the New York coastline is a hotbed for massive mako sharks, which can grow to more than 14 feet long.

"In the past, this is the place you came to catch monster sharks. There are so many records right here off the shores of Montauk," he said.

"All these monster sharks were completely fished out. They're gone," he said. "But all the evidence we are seeing is telling me that all these big sharks might be back. I know those big sharks are out there, and we are going to find them."

Test results ultimately found no evidence the "Sharkzilla" was radioactive, and scientists said she was likely a pregnant mako shark with exceptionally fast and deadly hunting skills.

The underwater investigation also revealed the area is now a breeding ground for makos, and that formidable female sharks were likely hunting to feed their developing pups.

MTA's on wrong track

What the F?

Big Apple subways are facing an uptick in delays this year — but the MTA appears more focused on the future, touting improvement projects that are decades away.

Weekday on-time performance slipped 1.7 percentage points systemwide, from 83.7% in the first half of 2025 to 82% in the first half of 2026, MTA data say.

That means nearly one in five weekday trips failed to arrive on time and some

lines were far worse.

The B, N, 2 and F lines posted the lowest weekday on-time rates, at 71.6%, 72.7%, 73% and 73.1%.

The 7, J and L trains were the most reliable lines, arriving on time 89.1%, 86.4% and 85.4% of the time on weekdays.

The 42nd Street, Franklin Avenue and Rockaway Park shuttles all topped 96% for on-time performance. Each runs a short stretch of track with no other trains merging in. *Haley Brown*

Clancy cries at trial

Lindsay Clancy sobbed in court as an emergency room doctor described his attempts to save her 8-month-old son — testimony that came after the jury visited the murder scene Friday.

The former labor and delivery nurse, 35, sat at the defense table in a Plymouth, Mass., courtroom, shaking from crying so uncontrollably. She had her right hand on her face and occasionally wiped her eyes.

The moment came just

after Mark Tenerowicz, an emergency room doctor at Beth Israel Deaconess in Plymouth, told the jury about trying for 40 minutes to bring back her middle child, Dawson, before finally declaring him dead.

Clancy sent then-husband Patrick on two errands while she allegedly strangled her three kids, including daughter Cora, 5, with elastic workout bands, according to testimony and evidence.

Priscilla DeGregory

McD kin rises in NYPD

The son of storied fallen hero NYPD Detective Steven McDonald was promoted to a high-ranking role in the department's public information branch Friday — capping a "bittersweet" month, he said.

Conor McDonald, 39, jumped rank from captain of the department's DCPI division to deputy inspector of it, the NYPD announced at a promotion ceremony.

"I'm very honored, and it's very humbling . . . [I'm] just very blessed and hon-

ored and lucky," McDonald said at One Police Plaza.

His promotion came after a police academy in Queens was last month named after his beloved dad — who was paralyzed by a teenage robbery suspect in Central Park in 1986.

After he was paralyzed at age 29, the elder McDonald lived three more decades in a wheelchair — even eventually forgiving Shavod Jones, the teen who nearly killed him. *Joe Marino*

and Natalie O'Neill

IT'S 'APOCALYPSE

Expats rip 'hellhole' Blast Spanish PM

By GREG CARLTON
and ALEX DIAZ

Outraged Spaniards lashed out at their socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez for turning the country into a "Third World" hellhole overrun with migrants.

Furious locals booed Sánchez and dubbed him a "son of a b---h" as he arrived Friday in the country's North African enclave of Ceuta the day after an unprecedented 60,000 migrants flooded in from neighboring Morocco.

"Everybody hates him," a 21-year-old Spanish-Italian entrepreneur who is studying in upstate New York told The Post.

"Do you think it's normal that people have to barbed wire the terrace of their apartments? We're talking about Spain — now it looks like a Third World country."

'Absolute disgrace'

The student, who did not want to be identified, added that his grandparents in the mainland city of Malaga think the situation is "an absolute disgrace."

"They've told me Spain has gotten out of control," he said.

"I mean, we're giving passports and residency to people who are illegally coming in with criminal backgrounds and diseases."

Santiago Carrera Fernández, 20, who moved to New Jersey from Madrid with his parents before starting high school, told The Post he couldn't be happier living in the US — especially after seeing the invasion of Ceuta on TV.

"I tell many people that I

never feel less safe anywhere in the US than I do in Spain," Fernández said. "Any city in the US is safer than Spain."

The two Spaniards said that crime in their home country has spiraled with unchecked migration under progressive leadership.

The young entrepreneur described how a migrant smashed his car window in an attempt to break into the vehicle when he was back working in Spain at the start of summer — leaving him feeling that the country he is from is no longer a place where he could live.

"It's very sad that the whole country that I am from is a place that we can't even consider living in, due to not only it being unsafe but also the squatters' rights being unacceptable," he sighed, adding that his grandfather's car had been stolen three times.

Fernández said he has never felt "insecure" in New York City or the Garden State like he does in his home country, where he is currently visiting with his family.

"In Spain, they'll steal your phone, your wallet. Spain is way different in that way," he cautioned.

Meanwhile, local residents in Ceuta vented their anger and frustration at the country's leadership in interviews with Spanish media.

"Sánchez is to blame for all of this, he's a scoundrel," one unnamed man told the Antena 3 TV station.

Fernández slammed the Spanish government as "just soft."

"We feel like we're just getting played around with by Morocco," he griped. "They do not control the borders at all."



By CHRIS NESI

An unprecedented wave of 60,000 illegal migrants from Africa flooded the Spanish enclave of Ceuta this week, prompting Spain to deploy its military — as terrified locals likened the invasion to an "apocalypse."

Harrowing local media reports reveal residents and business owners in Ceuta — a Spanish territory located on the north African coast — are too afraid to open their doors amid the rush of migrants, many of whom arrived wearing nothing but swimwear, without a penny or possession to their name.

"Businesses closed. Shops shut because if you open a business, it gets overrun . . . We're scared. The streets are packed. There are no measures in place. It's every man for himself. They're not giving us any help," a frightened downtown restaurant owner who didn't want to give their name told state-owned Spanish media outlet RTVE.

Court ruling spurred it

Ceuta's president estimated Friday that around 60,000 people had crossed by sea and land from Morocco over the past 24 hours — a sea of humanity equivalent to nearly 70% of Ceuta's population of 85,000.

Spain's Interior Ministry, meanwhile, estimated that about 50,000 migrants had crossed the border — but in a stunning reversal by 6 p.m. Friday, 48,300 had al-



ready returned home. Fifty-seven people died during the massive migration, including some who drowned and others who were trampled in a stampede while trying to cross fences near the Tarajal beach. The shocking surge came after a ruling by Spain's Supreme Court earlier this month, which said migrants intercepted at sea while attempting to reach Ceuta or Melilla, another Spanish autonomous city in northern Morocco, cannot be immediately deported.

"It has been a slow trickle since the Supreme Court's ruling, but



today has been an explosion," a spokesperson for Spain's Guardia Civil police told Reuters on Thursday.

The Supreme Court ruling spread on Moroccan social media, RTVE reported.

Ayoub El Abyad, a 16-year-old from Morocco, said he decided to try his luck with his cousin after seeing Instagram videos showing migrants crossing into Ceuta.

"Migration is about improving our lives," he told Reuters on the Moroccan side near the border with Ceuta. "We agreed we would try the idea of crossing and trust in Allah."

A quarter of Moroccans aged

'NOOOO!' IN SPAIN

Migrants bring chaos to North Africa enclave



BEDLAM: The Spanish enclave of Ceuta was stormed by sea and land by migrants coming from Morocco who nearly doubled the population in the region while bringing fiery chaos.

between 15 and 24 are not in education, employment or training, official data shows.

'Spread like wildfire'

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez visited Ceuta on Friday and also blamed human smugglers for twisting the Supreme Court ruling.

"It appears that this interpretation of the Supreme Court's ruling spread like wildfire over the past few hours through the networks of human trafficking organizations, triggering the kind of mass surge we witnessed yesterday," Sánchez said.

RTVE broadcast images of burned cars on the Moroccan side of the border after reported clashes during the border rush.

Meanwhile, the socialist Spanish government — which just months ago launched a program to give legal status to some 500,000 illegal immigrants in the country — said it deployed 200 specialized police officers and 60 troops from the mainland to assist Ceuta's own forces on Friday.

However, the reinforcements were powerless in the face of such a huge migrant deluge, which consisted mostly of military-age men.

"It's like an apocalypse. Waves

of people everywhere. You can see as many people wandering around as you want," José Carlos Lara, owner of a sign-making business just over the border, told RTVE.

He said local authorities have "no capacity" to deal with the chaos and that the new arrivals are already sleeping in the streets and washing themselves in public fountains. A video shared on X by David Santos, director of right-leaning Spanish media outlet La Bandera, shows a migrant defecating on the side of a building in broad daylight.

Business owners — particularly food stores — have shut their

doors in a panic, fearing widespread looting.

"I'm not opening this afternoon... The first thing I have to do is protect my business and my family," women's clothing shop owner Enrique Serrano told Reuters, noting that businesses are taking self-defense matters into their own hands because they lack faith in cops' ability to protect them.

The same is true of local residents, many of whom are afraid to walk the streets. "People aren't leaving their homes," said Sebastián Antón, who works at a small supermarket in the middle of Ceuta.

With Post Wires

'Would be worse in US with Dems'

President Trump warned the storming of a small Spanish enclave by tens of thousands of migrants would look "small-time" compared to what will happen in the US if voters pick open-border Democrats in the upcoming midterm elections.

Speaking at Camp David Friday, the president called the sudden mass migration into Ceuta a "catastrophe," and said the footage showing the lawlessness breaking out at the Moroccan border "looks like an invasion."

No sooner had the migrants breached the border than some started bathing in city fountains and using city streets as their own personal toilets.

"And that same thing is going to happen to us if the Republicans don't get elected, except worse. Much bigger, much easier to get into, despite the fact that we have built thousands of miles of wall, which I said we were going to do," Trump told reporters.

"We have the safest border in the world. If we're not in office, our country will be invaded at levels that made Spain look small-time."

The shocking surge followed a ruling by Spain's Supreme Court earlier this month that said migrants intercepted at sea while attempting to reach Ceuta or Melilla, another autonomous Spanish city in northern Morocco, cannot be immediately deported.

The socialist Spanish government just months ago also launched a program giving legal status to some 500,000 illegal immigrants in the country.

Emily Goodin and Chris Nesi

AFP via Getty Images; Anadolu via Getty Images; AFP via Getty Images

Luigi's 'loophole'



FANATICS: Sam Beard and Jamie Peck raise funds and advocate (inset far left) for alleged murderer Luigi Mangione (below).

Strategy that 'law is unjust'

By PATRICK REILLY

Luigi Mangione's radical supporters are leading the charge pushing for a rarely used legal loophole that could let the suspected healthcare CEO killer walk free — even if the jury believes he is guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the cold-blooded murder.

The December 4 Legal Committee, which has raised more than \$1.5 million for Mangione's defense, is raising awareness about jury nullification, a legal power by which a defiant jury can find a defendant not guilty if they believe the law the accused is charged with breaking is unjust, *The Times* reported.

While rare since the 19th century, it's used when a jury wants to "send a message about some social issue that is larger than the case itself or because the result dictated by law is contrary to the jury's sense of justice, morality or fairness," ac-

cording to the Cornell Legal Information Institute.

Jamie Peck, one of two spokespeople for the December 4 Legal Committee, described jury nullification to *The Times* as "a beautiful feature of our justice system and really one of the only safeguards against tyranny that we have."

Juror pool eyed

Mangione, 28, is accused at both state and federal level of gunning down UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson on the streets of Midtown on Dec. 4, 2024. He was arrested five days later at a McDonald's in Altoona, Pa., where police recovered his journal in which he allegedly wrote of his intention to "wack" an insurance-company CEO.

He has pleaded not guilty to state and federal charges.

Prosecutors may have a difficult time finding impartial jurors

in New York City for the politically charged case — which has sparked intense debate over the US healthcare system.

"You have a juror pool in New York City that is particularly politically inflamed. It's a very partisan city, and I think Luigi Mangione has a lot of support in New York City despite the fact that he's accused of an egregious murder," Kenneth Belkin, a criminal defense attorney in New York, told the *Times*.

"I think that's concerning because if you have a large amount of people that are supporting a [suspected] murderer's political stance in committing a murder, that raises a real possibility that you could get some jurors on that jury that may not convict, no matter what the evidence says."

Jury nullification is not legally sanctioned, and attorneys are not permitted to present the concept of jury nullification to

the jury — but it is also not outright forbidden.

However, in 2015 two people handing out pamphlets about jury nullification outside a Denver courthouse were arrested and charged with jury tampering. The charges were later tossed in the Colorado Supreme Court.

During jury selection, jurors will be asked by a judge whether they will be willing to follow the law to weed out those who may refuse.

Jury nullification has roots in English common law and was used by American colonists to acquit defendants in protest of the British.



Threads / @jamiepeck666: December 4 Legal Committee: Steven Hirsch for NY Post



KAMALA HARRIS
"Revisit Electoral College."

'Kam'in' up with radical stances

Kamala Harris on Friday signaled she'd support abolishing the Electoral College and packing the Supreme Court — an indication that the former vice president has moved further to the left since her disastrous 2024 presidential campaign.

"I know this is going to be controversial coming from me, in particular," Harris said in remarks at the National Urban League Conference in Nashville, Tenn., before laying out part of her potential 2028 platform.

"We need to revisit the Electoral College. We need to revisit the point of expanding the court to 13 justices like we have 13 district courts. We need to revisit, if they so want, statehood for Puerto Rico and DC," the former vice president argued.

Abolishing the Electoral College — a plank on the Democratic Socialists of America platform — is not a position Harris held during her failed 2024 presidential campaign. Harris lost both the Electoral College and popular vote to President Trump that year.

Similarly, Harris didn't back court packing in 2024. The former vice president instead favored term limits and subjecting justices to a binding code of ethics.

Harris supported statehood for Washington, DC, during her campaign against Trump, but not for Puerto Rico.

In her remarks, the former vice president also called for "accountability and consequences" for federal judicial nominees that intentionally mislead the Senate Judiciary Committee. **Victor Nava**

US warning on Belgium

The US State Department issued a Level 2 advisory urging Americans to "exercise increased caution" in Belgium due to crime, terrorism and unrest.

The agency noted on July 23 that petty crime is common, especially in popular tourist locations.

The advisory summary also noted that "there is a risk of terrorist violence, in-

cluding terrorist attacks and other activity in Belgium."

In 2023, a terrorist attack in Brussels left two Swedish travelers dead.

In recent years, Belgium has been the target of several attacks — the deadliest being the 2016 attack at the Brussels airport and the city's commuter rail system that left 32 people dead.

Reda Wigle

Michi-gross 'Diarrhea State'

Michigan has recorded more than 10,000 cases of the "explosive diarrhea" parasite — but the stomach-churning outbreak in the hardest hit US state may be slowing down, experts say.

State health officials announced Friday that over 10,700 people in Michigan have been afflicted by cyclosporiasis — the parasite

known to cause "explosive diarrhea."

Nearly 200 have been hospitalized, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Services.

However, hospital visits across Michigan by people complaining of diarrhea are slowing down, suggesting the outbreak in the Wolverine State may have peaked,

the Detroit Free Press reported, citing the state's chief medical executive, Dr. Natasha Bagdasarlian.

National fresh produce conglomerate Taylor Farms, which supplies lettuce to many fast-food chains including Taco Bell, was initially linked as the source of the contaminated lettuce last month. **Ella Morrison**

Deadbeat parents' SNAP cut

WASHINGTON — Millions of parents refusing to pay child support may have their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility revoked after the US Department of Agriculture rescinded a Biden administration rule last month, The Post has learned.

The move, which revives a policy implemented during the first Trump administration, could save taxpayers billions of dollars per year in money that's formerly gone to delinquent child support payees.

"This is not about kicking people, who truly can't afford to make payments, off SNAP," said Alex Adams, assistant secretary for family support at the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. "It's about getting people to have a plan in place so that they can fulfill both their legal and their moral responsibility to their children."

Only Arkansas, Kentucky, and Mississippi had implemented any restrictions, per a 2025 report published by the USDA.

The Biden-era guidance was rescinded in a July 20 memo that allows states to strip SNAP benefits from parents without primary custody who are supposed to pay child support — and are failing to do so.

SNAP benefits, commonly known as food stamps, serve a total of 42 million Americans. Of those, roughly 3.8 million are parents — both custodial and non-custodial — with formal child support orders, per the most recent HHS figures.

Josh Christenson



Tiffany Trump sets sail

Usually-out-of-the-spotlight lawyer Tiffany Trump, 32, the president's daughter by second wife Marla Maples, spends the day yachting off Ibiza in the Med with husband Michael Boulos and their infant son, Alexander.

BACKGRID

HOT BOOK HAS 'BOT' THE DUST Canceled for 'AI use'

By ARIEL ZILBER

A first-time novelist's whopping \$2 million book deal was reportedly canceled on suspicion AI had a role in writing it — after the work drew stellar praise from publishing savants.

Jerry Falade's own reps pulled the plug on the sale of his debut crime novel, "Call Me, I'll Hide the Body," after drawing the eye-popping offer from Minotaur, a Macmillan US imprint, according to The Guardian.

In an email to the publishers, Falade's agents reportedly said they initially accepted the author's assurances that AI had not been used in writing or editing the manuscript.

"Jerry Falade produced an incredible manuscript that dazzled us and the top publishing professionals around the world," they were quoted as saying.

"Unfortunately, we are no longer able to authenticate how the manuscript fully evolved from origin to completion."

The agents added that they vetted the manuscript with Falade during the submission process and trusted his assurances that no AI was used — but they moved to withdraw the book because they could "no longer substantiate that."

'Stunningly good' read

The book had generated huge intense interest on both sides of the Atlantic and was slated for publication in 2028.

The US auction, run by Europa Content's Marc Gerald, reportedly drew 14 bidders, while UK agent Sandy Hodgman secured multiple six-figure offers.

Gerald told The Bookseller he first read the novel in June, describing it at the time as "stunningly good" and saying "everyone fell in love with it."

It's "a book that appeals to absolutely everyone," he beamed.

According to Gerald, Europa opted against using AI-detection software when an editor raised

concerns about possible AI use in the work, because Falade's explanation of the matter was "clear and credible."

But after a July 29 meeting in which "aspects of [Falade's] story changed," the agency decided to end its relationship with the author, Gerald told The Bookseller.

"We feel terrible for putting this into the universe and the firestorm it has caused," he said.

"The book itself is genius — however it came to be drafted, it's amazing," Gerald added.

Racial bias claims

Falade denied to The Guardian that he used AI and alleged that the industry's response to his book reflected racial bias.

"Three black authors received major publishing deals this year, and all three later had deals canceled or disrupted following suspicions about AI," he said.

"There seems to be a troubling assumption that when a black writer produces work that attracts significant attention, the work could not possibly be their own."

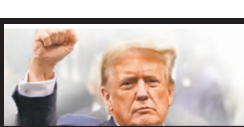
He didn't provide examples, but black authors Mia Ballard and HM Wolfe were accused of AI use this year, The Guardian noted.

Falade also said AI-detection tools "are widely known to produce false positives" and argued that the manuscript was reviewed by multiple readers, editors and acquisitions teams at publishing houses before his agents pulled the plug.

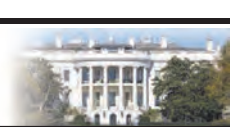
"If the manuscript had shown genuine signs of being generated by AI, it is difficult to believe that every one of those experienced professionals would have failed to notice," he said.

Tisha Morris, an entertainment attorney who specializes in publishing law at Legacy Arts Law PC, told The Post that the Falade controversy highlights a growing challenge for the publishing industry since "AI use is easier to allege than to actually prove."

azilber@nypost.com



TRUMP 2.0



GUARDED HOPE

**MARK DUBOWITZ
& BEN COHEN**

PRESIDENT Trump is sounding bullish about the future of Gaza.

After the Board of Peace, created by the US administration to manage the postwar reconstruction of the coastal enclave, issued its plan on Friday to disarm Hamas and allied terrorist groups, Trump hailed it as a “monumental step” for both Palestinians and Israelis.

Encouragingly, a capable international team is leading the initiative: At the helm is Nickolay Mladenov, an experienced Bulgarian diplomat intimately familiar with the pitfalls of peacemaking in the Middle East.

Mladenov is under no illusions about the mammoth task ahead. As he put it in his announcement of the disarmament proposal, “Implementation and verification have to be real.”

The disarmament of Hamas is the central plank of a broader 15-point Roadmap issued by the Board of Peace.

Both Israel and Hamas would have to meet key milestones within an agreed time frame.

That includes the phased withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from Gaza.

‘Terror-free zone’

It would also replace Hamas’ brutal regime with a technocratic government — the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, headed by Dr. Ali Shaath, a Gaza-born engineer and former Palestinian Authority official.

And it would result in the deployment of an International Stabilization Force charged with monitoring compliance, ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid, and training Palestinian law-enforcement authorities.

The final goal, as the Roadmap puts it, is to govern Gaza according to the principle of “One Authority, One Law, One Weapon.”

That, in turn, will prepare the ground for Gaza to become, in the words of Trump’s October

Obstacles of board’s Roadmap

peace plan, “a deradicalized terror-free zone that does not pose a threat to its neighbors.”

Danny Danon, Israel’s Ambassador to the UN, said Israel was “looking forward to implementing” the plan — but cautioned: “We have to verify what they [Hamas] are doing, not what they are saying.”

Hamas’ response, however, is worrying.

Calling the Roadmap “difficult and painful,” the terror group’s senior negotiator Ghazi Hamad is already trying to rewrite its provisions.

He is demanding the immediate withdrawal of the IDF to the positions it controlled prior to the October cease-fire — giving Hamas breathing space to continue its rearmament and recruitment.

And he is insisting that any weapons Hamas surrenders be placed under the control of the Palestinian Authority, rather than an international body that could put them permanently beyond use.

Deradicalization

Hamad and other senior Hamas leaders know that without its weapons, the group is a paper tiger.

That’s why disarmament is such a frightening proposition for them.

Yet disarmament on paper is not enough: Any agreement is

only as credible as its enforcement mechanism.

And the only meaningful enforcement mechanism is the IDF. Only Israeli soldiers will risk their lives to protect their families from another Oct. 7.

Any roadmap that restricts Israel’s ability to act decisively against a reconstituting Hamas risks undermining the very security it is supposed to create.

Nor can disarmament alone solve the deeper problem: Any serious plan for Gaza must include a comprehensive strategy for deradicalization.

Without sustained deradicalization, Hamas can simply bide its time, rebuild its networks and wait to mobilize a new generation of Palestinian terrorists.

Trump’s original peace plan recognized this when it emphasized the imperative of deradicalizing Gaza.

Success ultimately depends on two things: ensuring that Israel retains the freedom to enforce Hamas’ disarmament, and uprooting the ideology that has sustained Hamas for generations.

Without both, Hamas will simply wait for another opportunity. And the alternative will be a return to bloodshed.

Mark Dubowitz is chief executive of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and the presenter of “The Iran Breakdown” podcast. Ben Cohen is a research fellow at FDD.

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

WASHINGTON — Hamas’ stunning pledge to lay down its weapons under a newly unveiled 15-point Gaza peace roadmap could mark one of the biggest breakthroughs in the Middle East in decades — but within hours of its release Friday, the agreement was met with skepticism over whether the terror group will follow through.

Even President Trump, whose administration brokered the next phase of the peace effort, acknowledged the enormous challenge ahead during a Cabinet meeting at Camp David.

“Most people said that would be a deal that would be undoable,” Trump said. “Now, will it go through? It’s a very complex situation over there — the people are very complex and difficult. Many cases wonderful, and many cases not so wonderful. But that will be a... great breakthrough.”

If carried out, the agreement would mark the first time Hamas has formally agreed to dismantle its military wing since seizing control of Gaza in 2007.

“There’s no concerns about the commitment to it on all sides,” a Board of Peace official told The Post on Friday. “We have a deal. Hamas has publicly agreed. The mediators have publicly acknowledged agreement. Now we need to implement it.”

The roadmap kicks off a 14-day implementation period, with the official describing it as the “rubber-meets-the-road” phase.

The framework calls for Hamas to surrender its weapons under international supervision, Israeli forces to gradually withdraw from Gaza and a new Palestinian governing authority to take over administration of the war-ravaged territory as reconstruction begins.

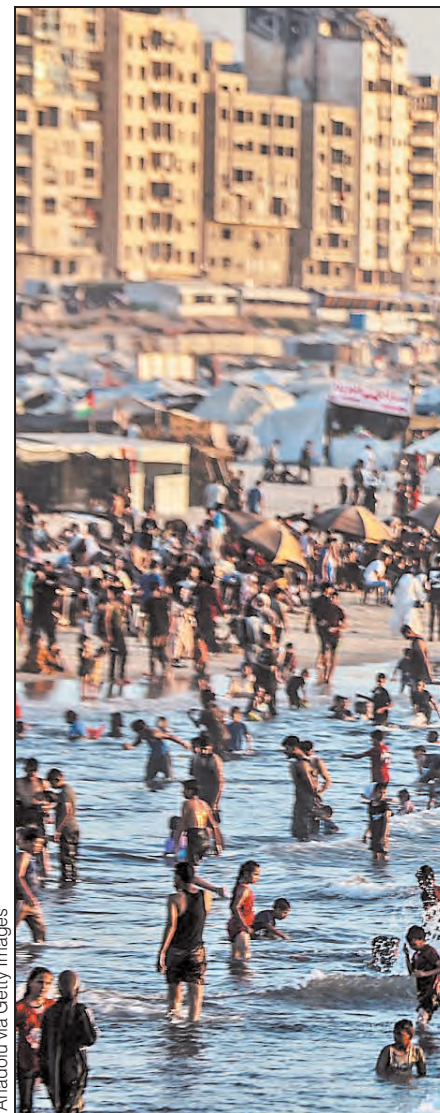
‘It’s a big step’

Trump argued the agreement is historic even before the first weapon is surrendered.

“Nobody thought that would be possible to disarm Hamas,” he said. “It’s a big step for the Middle East, and people are really impressed by it, and they’re surprised by it.”

But turning those promises into reality may prove far more difficult.

The first obstacle is Hamas’ ar-



Anadolu via Getty Images

senal itself.

The terror group is believed to possess thousands of assault rifles, rocket launchers, mortars, anti-tank weapons and explosives, along with an extensive network of underground tunnels built over nearly two decades of fighting, according to the Institute for National Security Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Even supporters of the agreement acknowledge that collecting every weapon will be an enormous undertaking.

Officials envision a phased process, clearing neighborhoods and communities one by one before expanding to larger sections of Gaza.

“You can’t just snap a finger and all of a sudden a magnet zaps all guns out of the air. It’s going to

ON GAZA PEACE



Hamas 'disarm' difficult to verify

have to go community by community. That's going to be the hard work of this," the Board of Peace official said. "But as that happens — and there's verification to it in those areas — it's going to give space for Israel to say, 'OK, this part has been demilitarized, we're moving back.'"

The roadmap calls for international monitors to oversee the destruction or transfer of Hamas' weapons and inspect military sites to verify the group has dismantled its military infrastructure.

Yet Gaza remains riddled with hidden weapons caches, under-

ground tunnel complexes and makeshift arms factories, leaving major questions about how inspectors could confidently verify Hamas has fully disarmed.

Trump's Board of Peace, along with mediators and the newly established Palestinian body — dubbed the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza — will oversee the process.

Israeli officials, meanwhile, remain wary after years of cease-fires that ultimately collapsed.

Israel has long insisted it will not fully withdraw

from Gaza until Hamas no longer poses a military threat, meaning troop pullbacks are expected to occur only after specific disarmament benchmarks are met.

Should Israeli officials conclude Hamas is hiding weapons or slowing the process, the agreement could quickly begin to unravel. "We do have an understanding with Israel," Trump said Friday. "Israel helped us, and they've been very good."

Privately, however, some Israeli sources told The Post they remain deeply skeptical.

"Will Hamas abandon its goal of destroying the State of Israel and murdering Jews?" one source in Jerusalem said, calling it the agreement's most important unanswered question.

Israeli security analyst Yuval



WAIT AND SEA: Life in Gaza, where bombed buildings line the coast, would be greatly elevated by President Trump's ideas for peace — but skeptics doubt Hamas (inset) would give up power.

Davis voiced similar concerns.

"Hamas has a documented history of breaking every commitment it has ever made," Davis told The Post. "Its own founding charter calls for Israel's destruction — that has never been amended or renounced."

He also warned that the success of the roadmap depends not only on disarmament but on who ultimately governs Gaza.

'Legitimate transition'

Under the agreement, the NCAG will assume responsibility for governing the enclave, restoring public services, improving humanitarian conditions and overseeing reconstruction.

The committee declared Friday that it is ready to begin carrying out those responsibilities.

But Davis argued that replacing Hamas politically could prove just as difficult as dismantling it militarily.

"Governance cannot be handed to any entity with ties to Hamas, its ideology or its personnel," he said. "A legitimate transitional authority must be vetted, de-radicalized and free of Hamas influence — otherwise you've simply rebranded the same terror infrastructure under a new letterhead."

Additional reporting by Marisa Schultz

Drums of war beating vs. Iran

WASHINGTON — President Trump has directed more strikes on Iran that could begin as soon as this weekend, a source familiar with military planning said Friday, adding that the military has drafted multiple options for fresh attacks.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the president had given the order, citing US officials who said the strikes "would last a few days."

To date, the US has held back on attacking energy infrastructure — but that may change this weekend, CBS reported on Friday, noting there were high-level discussions on "cutting electricity across Tehran."

During a Friday cabinet meeting at Camp David, the president previewed the pending strikes, saying Iran still has some military capabilities, "but soon they won't have some left."

Asked about plans to launch a large-scale attack, Trump said, "We're going big. We've already gone big," later adding that US operations will "get a little stronger maybe now, but they'll get weaker."

Trump also characterized the Iranian regime as "very dishonest" and "very dishonorable to deal with" throughout attempts at negotiations to end the conflict. The president cited a surprise missile attack on US forces in Jordan Wednesday, which Trump said happened "in the midst of a negotiation."

Caitlin Doornbos



They're the 'talk' of digital: Top 20 earners

Podcast

millionaires

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Forbes on Thursday unveiled its list of the 20 highest-paid podcasters in 2026, from celebrity shows hosted by the Kelce brothers or comedian Amy Poehler to political and true-crime podcasts — all of which rake in tens of millions of dollars.

Joe Rogan unsurprisingly reigned supreme as the world's highest-paid podcaster. Over the past year, the 58-year-old UFC broadcaster earned \$82 million from his Spotify show, "The Joe Rogan Experience."

The show's three-hour episodes include conversations with scientists, comedians and entrepreneurs — including several controversial figures — at Rogan's Austin, Texas, studio, and it's perhaps best known for Rogan's interview of President Trump ahead of the 2024 election.

Rounding out the top three are John Coogan and Jordi Hays, hosts of the OpenAI-owned tech podcast network TBPB, who earned an estimated \$70 million since June 2025, and Steven Bartlett, 33, whose corporate interview show "The Diary of a CEO" earned him \$45 million.

Football bros Jason and Travis Kelce brought in \$35 million from their Amazon podcast "New Heights," putting them in seventh place.

The podcast picked up steam in 2023 as Travis started dating now-wife pop superstar Taylor



Swift and after his Kansas City Chiefs faced off against Jason's Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LIX.

Hollywood celebrities, who have increasingly entered the alternative media space, raked in the big bucks — benefiting from already-established fanbases and an ability to nab interviews with their famous friends.

"SmartLess," the SiriusXM show hosted by comedians Will Arnett, Jason Bateman and Sean Hayes, earned its hosts \$37 million — ranking them as the fifth-highest paid podcasters.

Varied content

American actor Dax Shepard, 51, made \$25 million from his Amazon show "Armchair Expert," while comedian and producer Amy Poehler, 54, earned \$24 million from her Spotify podcast "Good Hang," which earlier this year won the first-ever Golden Globe award for podcasting.

Internet celeb Alex Cooper, 31,



made \$32 million from her Spotify show "Call Her Daddy," which launched in 2018. Reality TV stars-turned-influencers Hannah Berner, 34, and Paige DeSorbo, 33, raked in \$18 million from "Giggly Squad," which launched in 2020.

Ashley Flowers, 36, the so-called "queen of true crime," made \$42 million from her show "Crime Junkie."

Podcasts have been stealing views from traditional TV.

therzlich@nypost.com



OPINIONS ARE GOLD: Joe Rogan (lower left), Jason (top left) and Travis Kelce and Alex Cooper rank on Forbes' list of the top 20 highest-paid podcasters.

Instagram/@alexandracoper

Guthrie ransom notes seen

Fed payroll down \$2B in '25

Cops released the full contents of alleged ransom notes sent within days of Nancy Guthrie's mysterious disappearance for the first time Friday — as the search for the missing grandma hits the six-month mark.

The two notes were emailed to local TV outlet KOLD on Feb. 2 and Feb. 6,

from someone claiming to have the grandma, the Pima County Sheriff's Office wrote on X, while releasing images of the notes.

The first one — sent just one day after the mom was reported missing from her Tucson home — was addressed to Nancy Guthrie's "Today" show co-host

daughter, Savannah Guthrie.

The second, shorter note, was sent four days later and claimed that 84-year-old Nancy had died.

The sheriff's office said that the notes reveal "distinctive patterns of word choice, syntax, and phraseology that reflect the writer's linguistic style." Georgia Worrell

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has overseen the departure of 50,000 federal employees and trimmed nearly \$2 billion in salary payments within its first year, according to data released by a taxpayer watchdog group.

OpenTheBooks provided the "Swamp Update" Mon-

day, highlighting the reduction in the federal workforce from 1,506,603 to 1,452,891 between 2024 and 2025, dipping to 53,712 fewer employees in government under President Trump than under former President Joe Biden.

At the same time, the federal payroll got a \$1.86 billion cut in the first year of

Trump's second term.

Biden's final year in office saw federal salaries surge by more than \$10 billion and the federal headcount by more than 13,000.

The watchdog's figures don't include a headcount or salaries for the Department of War or the US Postal Service. Josh Christenson

Maine pol lover's his 2nd cousin

Maine Democratic Senate candidate Troy Jackson is in a long-term relationship with his high school sweetheart — who is also his second cousin, according to a new report.

Jackson, 58, and Lana Pelletier share two adult sons and the same great-grandparents, according to Thursday's report by independent journalist Steve Robinson, who notes that such relationships are both legal under state law and not uncommon in the rural North Maine Woods region, near the Canadian border.

While Jackson, a onetime logger and former president of the Maine State Senate, has described Pelletier as his wife in the past, locals tell Robinson the couple never legally married.

Jackson grew up in the village of Allagash (population 237 as of the 2020 census) and attended nearby Fort Kent High School with Pelletier.

According to genealogical records unearthed by Robinson, Jackson's maternal grandmother — Albertine Pelletier O'Leary — and Pelletier's paternal grandfather — Louis A. Pelletier Sr. — were siblings, making Jackson's mother, Colleen McBreairty, and Pelletier's father, Louis Jr., first cousins. *Samuel Chamberlain*

Colo. town 'abandoned'

A small Colorado town plagued by fraud allegations and violent altercations was deemed abandoned after all elected officials resigned from their posts and the local water became a health hazard.

Hartman, Colo., with a population of 30 and little more than a town hall and a post office, was declared abandoned by Secretary of State Jena Griswold on Wednesday.

"Yesterday, the Colorado Department of State issued a formal determination that the Town of Hartman has been abandoned pursuant to 31-3-201 C.R.S.," Griswold's office announced.

Nicholas McEntyre

FAUCI BANK \$HOT

By CHADWICK MOORE,
MEGAN PALIN
and WILL ZIMMERMAN

Germ czar Anthony Fauci has nearly doubled his net worth since retiring from government service at the end of 2022 — raking in an estimated \$12.5 million, a Post analysis reveals.

In just his first year of retirement, the government's former COVID-19 commissar earned \$3.5 million, according to a 141-page financial disclosure report obtained by government watchdog group Open The Books.

But Fauci's war chest has only exploded since then, through book deals, speaking engagements, prestigious awards and a \$350,000 golden parachute from taxpayers.

Fauci stepped down from government work in December 2022 after leading the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for 38 years, becoming the highest-paid federal employee in the nation, making \$480,654 annually at the time of his retirement — \$80,000 more than the president's salary.

\$100K to speak

A public records request from Minnesota's Alpha News uncovered that Fauci was paid \$75,000 to give a speech at the University of Minnesota in April. Industry estimates put a Fauci appearance between \$50,000 to \$100,000 a pop, and since 2024, Fauci has appeared at least 18 times for public speaking engagements, earning an esti-

mated \$900,000, at least.

Fauci's next gig is booked for September in Wilton Manors, Fla. — a beachside enclave popular with older gay men where seats are going for \$160 each, roughly the same ticket price as seeing pop star Bad Bunny live.

"In the year since I stepped down as NIAID director, I have had the opportunity to lecture and engage in fireside chats and moderated discussions throughout the country," Fauci wrote in his 2024 memoir, "On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service."

Publishing insiders previously told The Post he sold that book to Penguin Random House's Viking imprint for \$5 million.

Pricey prizes

That desire, he said in the book, brought him into his current top teaching job at Georgetown University, where the average professor salary is \$233,000 annually — although Fauci will undoubtedly get a higher salary as he holds multiple roles at the school and brings star power.

In addition to the \$750,000 he's since made from teaching (a low estimate), academia has showered Fauci with medals and monetary prizes since he stepped down, including \$50,000 from Columbia University's Calderone Prize and a \$40,000 gift from the National Academy of Medicine's Lienhard Prize.

He continues to get a royalty check from McGraw-Hill publishers for a textbook he has edited since the 1980s, a yearly sum between \$100,000 and \$1 million, according to documents that do not disclose the exact amount.

Fauci's government pension is estimated to be over \$350,000 a year — the largest in government history, injecting \$1.5 million in taxpayer money into his pocket since he left the job.

All this adds up to an estimate of \$12.5 million, grossed since he retired in late 2022. That figure nearly doubles his net worth to a whopping \$27.5 million today.



Doubled net
worth to \$27.5M
since retiring

BOOSTER: COVID-19 villian Dr. Anthony Fauci and wife Christine Grady have raked in the dough since Fauci retired, with the doc's net worth now an estimated \$27.5 million.

Santos' new 'fraud': Insider Kalshi bet

Former Rep. George Santos (R-NY) settled an "unlawful trading" investigation Friday into bets he placed on Kalshi related to whether he would appear at President Trump's State of the Union address.

The convicted fraudster was hit with a three-year

trading ban and agreed to pay \$35,000 in fines and profits made off the wagers, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission said of the settlement.

"Kalshi caught George Santos. Now he's paying an expensive price," Robert Denault, the prediction

market company's head of enforcement, wrote on X.

The CFTC found that Santos engaged in "manipulative activity" when he made wagers on a Kalshi market in February that asked users to predict, "Who will attend the State of the Union?"

He allegedly placed a bet on

Kalshi that he wouldn't attend Trump's address to Congress after announcing on X the day before that he would "be there... in the gallery."

Joseph Murray, the former congressman's lawyer, claims Santos had every intention of attending Trump's speech but was thwarted by weather-re-

lated travel delays.

"He realized he would not be able to safely attend the address and then logically adopted a no position," Murray said, noting this was the first time Santos had ever wagered on a prediction market. *Victor Nava*

■ Business / Page 27

Buzzer rings on Nets marriage

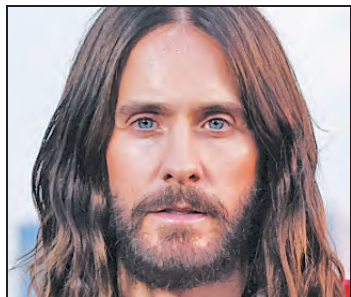


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North of nowhere

IT went south! **North West's** first headlining tour "isn't happening anymore." **Kim Kardashian** and **Kanye West's** daughter shared the "sad" news about her 14-date Kimokawaii Tour with **Molly Santana** in a since-deleted Instagram Story yesterday, less than a week before the first show. "I was really excited to go on tour with Molly Santana," the 13-year-old wrote, per Just Jared, promising "something special" for fans in the future. Rapper Santana, 21, apologized and vowed to "make this one up" to supporters. People was the first to report the tour's website had been taken down. Reps for North and Santana did not respond to requests for comment. North released her EP, "N0rth4evr," in May.



Scaly antics on set

JARED Leto had bizarre demands while working on the film "Tron: Ares," a production source claimed to PageSix.com's **Leah Bitsky** and **Nate Grant**. The source alleged Leto (above) did not want "eye contact of any kind" and that he was allegedly on a diet that "consisted of eating only fish." The source said he demanded a fisherman be brought on to the set — in Vancouver, Canada — to "catch and prepare fresh fish every day." The insider said they never witnessed Leto act sexually inappropriate on set. A rep for Leto did not respond to a request for comment.

BROOKLYN Nets and New York Liberty owners **Clara Wu Tsai** and **Joseph Tsai** are ending their nearly 30-year marriage.

A spokesperson for the prominent couple told PageSix.com's **Melanie Bromley** and **Teresa Roca** in an exclusive statement, "Clara Wu Tsai and Joe Tsai have decided to end their marriage, a decision they came to mutually and with great respect for one another."

"Over the years, their relationship evolved into more of a partnership, one of running their businesses and raising their children together. While they have grown apart, their divorce is amicable and their relationship remains a strong, professional partnership."

The statement also touched on the future of their many business ventures, explaining, "Their decision will not affect the business operations of Brooklyn Sports and Entertainment, the Brooklyn Nets or the New York Liberty. Joe will remain chairman and Clara will remain vice chair of Brooklyn Sports and Entertainment. Joe will remain governor of the Brooklyn Nets and Clara will remain governor of the New York Liberty. They will continue to own and be stewards of the teams with professional management in place as they always have."

The statement added that "in the long run, they also plan to involve their children," all

three of whom are adults.

As for technology company Alibaba, the statement read, "There are no plans to sell any Alibaba shares, and Joe's role as Alibaba chairman is not affected by this development."

The statement concluded, "Joe and Clara remain deeply committed to continuing their existing philanthropic and community work. They are both driven by the best interests of their family, businesses, and communities, and are dedicated to continue working together as true partners."

Joe, 62, and Clara, 60, married in October 1996 in the Upper East Side. He resides in Hong Kong, while she lives in the United States.



Grines to a halt

BRITTNEY Griner and her wife, **Cherelle Griner**, are calling it quits after eight years of marriage. The WNBA star filed for divorce in Fulton County, Ga., on Thursday, according to court documents obtained by Page Six. In the filing, Brittney, 35, described the marriage as "irretrievably broken" and noted the pair has been separated since July 24. She is seeking joint legal custody of the couple's 2-year-old son, **Bash**. A rep for Brittney did not respond to Page Six's request for comment. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution was first to report the news. The Connecticut Sun center and Cherelle, a lawyer, tied the knot in June 2018. In 2022, Cherelle, 34, became one of the most vocal advocates for Griner's release after she was detained in Russia for nearly a year for carrying cannabis oil in her luggage. The Olympic gold medalist was previously married for just weeks to fellow WNBA player **Glory Johnson** in 2015.



Now, it's 9021-foe

TORI Spelling and **Jennie Garth's** friendship has possibly come to an end. According to an insider, the former "Beverly Hills, 90210" co-stars' friendship unraveled after Garth (above) allegedly failed to support Spelling through difficult events. "Jennie has been completely unresponsive and not there for Tori as a friend," a source told

PageSix.com's **Bernie Zilio** and **Tori Schneebaum**. "She hasn't checked up on her after her many hospital visits and her divorce." However, another source said even though they're no longer podcast co-hosts, there was "no falling out." Reps for both did not respond to requests for comment.

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Papa Pete signs new collab

PETE Davidson and **Elsie Hewitt** have worked out co-parenting two months after their split. In a joint statement shared exclusively with PageSix.com's **Sarah Jones** through their representatives, Davidson and Hewitt said, "We are cooperatively co-parenting our daughter whose well-being remains our top priority, and we are fully committed to working together to give her love from both of us." Additionally, a source told Page Six the exes have reached a joint agreement. The "Saturday Night Live" alum, 32, and the model, 30, welcomed their daughter, **Scottie Rose**, last December. A source exclusively told Page Six in June that Davidson had been paying for everything related to his ex and his daughter, including the rent, their living expenses and their health insurance. "They may have split, but all he wants is for Elsie to be happy and in a good place," the source said. Meanwhile, Hewitt celebrated Scottie turning 7 months old on July 12 by sharing sweet photos of them wearing matching outfits during a picnic in the park. Davidson and Hewitt, who began dating in March 2025, split five months after having their daughter.

After being tangled in a web of "Spider-Man" promo, spouses **Tom Holland** and **Zenaya** molt the suits and gowns for a casual breakfast run in London.

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ACS probe awaiting Kat action

Gov. Hochul is letting an oversight bill targeting the city's Administration for Children's Services languish on her desk — as the fatal starvation of an autistic Bronx teen resurrected outrage over the troubled child-welfare agency.

The legislation requiring ACS officials to cough up records to the city's Department of Investigation still awaits Hochul's signature or veto even after state lawmakers approved it in June.

Aghast DOI officials — including current Commissioner Nadia Shihat — have raised alarms over roughly 20 deaths of children under ACS' purview that unfolded during the past decade.

The officials contend ACS bureaucrats have stonewalled forking over records on the deaths — and maintain the legislation is the best way to get the city to open up, a DOI spokesperson said.

The actions — or potential inaction — by ACS case workers in the case of 16-year-old Adonis Jarvis remains murky.

Jarvis, who was autistic, allegedly starved to death in a squalid Bronx apartment — weighing just 59 pounds when he died in March, prosecutors said. His severely malnourished twin brother miraculously survived.

The twins' mother, Geneva Jarvis, 36, and grandmother, Denise Jarvis, 62, were charged with murder this week.

Sources revealed that the family was on ACS officials' radar for more than a decade until they closed the case in 2024.

Craig McCarthy, Matt Troutman

US mom still lost in Grenada

Elizabeth Waddell's husband said Friday that his family has done all they can in the search for the missing mom as they prepare to fly back to the US — nine days after she vanished while swimming in Grenada.

"We have done what we can here, and the investigation will continue," Cailen Waddell wrote on a fundraiser for the search effort.

He thanked the Grenadian authorities for their "compassionate" response to the family's trauma and wished them well as the search continues before turning to supporters back home.

Earlier this week, Cailen revealed that he and authorities do not suspect foul play was a factor in her disappearance. *Chris Bradford*

'Gen J'ers line up for Jersey party pubs



By ANDREA PALLADINO

A four-hour wait and a pricey fast-pass lane aren't just for Disney World — it's the new Saturday night at the Jersey Shore.

Divey but beloved beach town bars such as The Parker House, Osprey, Jenks and D'Jais, once flooded by locals wanting to slug back a beer while listening to a cover band's rendition of "Livin' on a Prayer," have been transformed into hot spots for young partiers.

Thanks to viral videos of influencer Alix Earle and model Livvy Dunne partying at Jenks Club in Point Pleasant and pop star Tate McRae canoodling with New Jersey Devils NHL star Jack Hughes at Sea Girt's The Parker House, Gen Zers are trekking from all over to endure insanely long wait times to get in on the Shore action.

VIP cards

The hysteria (and money spent) is a sharp contrast to what Middletown, NJ, resident Carol Ann Mireider recalls of her partying nights down the Shore.

"We didn't pay much; it wasn't so commercialized. You could go to D'Jais' [in Belmar] happy hour and get five beers for a dollar," she said.

Today's young partiers are willing to do whatever it takes to party down Shore alongside in-



fluencers, including paying \$75 to cut the line, or, for those more dedicated, paying \$200 to \$300 to secure the coveted VIP card that allows them to skip cover fees, go to the front of the line and bring a plus-one.

But some locals are annoyed that they can't enjoy these Shore bars the way they used to.

Sea Girt local Emily Sarre, 26, captured this frustration in late June, posting a video saying, "how it feels going to The Parker House as a local nowadays," with a broken heart emoji.

Commenters were quick to agree that the "TikTokification" of these Jersey gems has "ruined it."

Big bucks

"What do you mean the place I grew up going to after the beach has a mob like that now?" griped one commenter.

"One of these days I hope people will realize that making things overly popular on social media ruins whatever it is 100% of the time," added another.

Despite all this grumpiness, lo-

SHORE WE'LL WAIT!

cals walk a fine line because they don't necessarily want to turn away weekend warriors, since they help bring business to these otherwise sleepy Shore towns.

Which has always been the case, even in Mireider's day, as she remembers when "people would come from all over to the Stone Pony [in Asbury Park] when Springsteen got his start."

"If people want to put more money up to experience it, why not? They will never have the true experience, but they will get a moment of it," said Mireider.

How NYC brothers bit off s'more than

By MICHAEL KAPLAN
and CARLOS GREER

A \$400 million financial scandal has rocked the Northeast teen camp world — threatening to derail the summers of thousands of schoolkids and parents.

Many have worried dues they paid for kids to attend elite programs such as Camp Echo in Burlington, NY, or Mohawk Day Camp in Westchester County — often running from \$13,000 to \$20,000 per child — would be lost, after camp magnates Michael and David Shabsels suddenly filed for bankruptcy at the beginning of June.

“There could not have been a worse time for this to happen,” one source told The Post, referring to the Shabsels brothers defaulting on hundreds of millions of dollars worth of loans weeks before camp started.

The Brooklyn-born brothers spent more than 20 years establishing a \$400 million empire encompassing over 30 of the most exclusive and upmarket camps in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York, as well as offices, a retail center and water parks.

Now, they find themselves on the brink of losing it all.

Brotherly rift?

At the end of last year, they had put up 13 of their summer camps as collateral to raise \$195 million on the Israeli bond market. By June they filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, as well as personal bankruptcy, admitting in court papers to having between \$500 million and \$1 billion in liabilities.

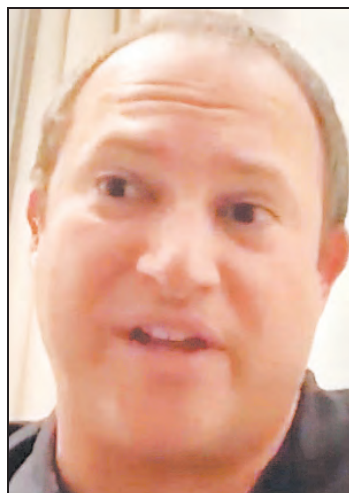
The apparent large-scale money mismanagement has caused a rift between Michael, 56, and David, 49, according to one camp partner, who said they’d always previously known David as being “fair” and honest.

“He claims he has no idea what was going on with his brother. But I don’t believe him, frankly. How could I? He was a trusted business partner with his brother for 27 years,” the source said.

The source added they got the sense David felt violated by his brother “because, he explained, it was more like a sickness than anything else. His brother was just trying to right the ship, so to speak, and taking bigger-and-bigger risks.”

The source said they had never met Michael but had heard from others he is eccentric — only using a flip phone and memorizing all the phone numbers he needs.

Adding to their woes, the pair are now under investigation by the Department of Justice, ac-



‘ You could make a movie of this event. So many questions arise. How did the Shabsels brothers manage to operate in such a problematic way for so long and how do you get to liabilities like these without anyone stopping for a moment? ’

cording to The Real Deal, citing a filing on the Israeli stock exchange, as well as facing another probe from the Southern District of New York over potential fraud.

“We were all blown away when we found out,” Allison Aspis, a summer program adviser who consults with wealthy families about where to send their kids told Town & Country magazine. “The fact that some of these camps are in danger of closing because of these two men is extremely upsetting to us.”

One of the more eyebrow-raising allegations against the Shabsels is that, shortly before the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange halted trading on the brothers’ holding company, Simad Holdings, Michael had transferred \$32 million from its coffers to a personal account, leaving it short, according to the Jerusalem Post.

It has also emerged the brothers had a very risky pattern of borrowing, taking numerous Merchant Cash Advance loans of \$1 million and under. Such loans

are usually used by businesses working outside the traditional banking system and carry high interest rates.

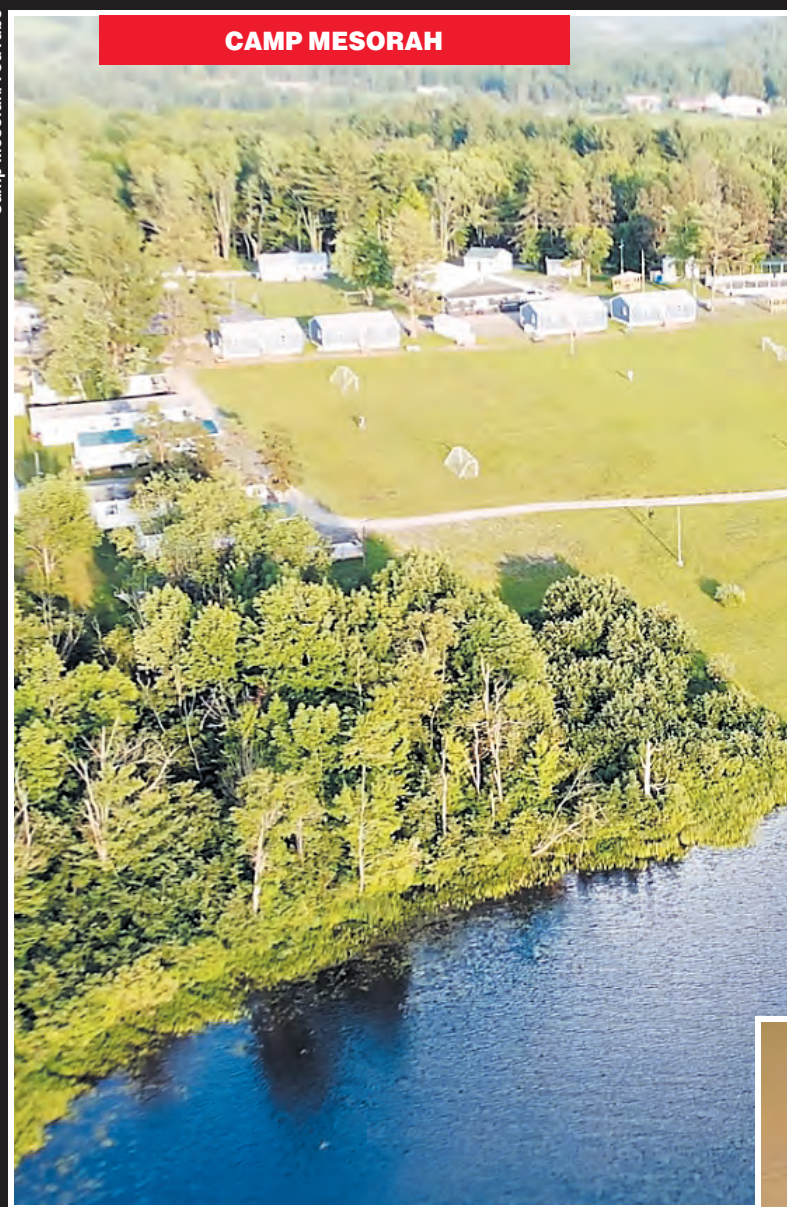
When payments were missed, those debts accounted for \$200 million.

Camps ongoing, for now

“My sense is that they were building a massive enterprise of camps and real estate,” an insider told The Post, explaining a missed interest payment for their bonds alone, due on May 31, totaled nearly \$7 million.

The insider noted once people get involved in large-sum transactions and moving around debt, the practice can become

Camp Mesorah/YouTube



CAMP MESORAH

both empowering and addictive.

“You could make a movie of this event. So many questions arise. How did the Shabsels brothers manage to operate in such a problematic way for so long and how do you get to liabilities like these without anyone stopping for a moment?” a source told the Jerusalem Post.

Various lawyers for the Shabsels did not return requests for comment from The Post.

The brothers’ camps are now all up for grabs in a closed-door auction — which started Wednesday and is expected to continue for at least another week — leaving them with an uncertain future.

One New York mom with children in one of the camps agreed.

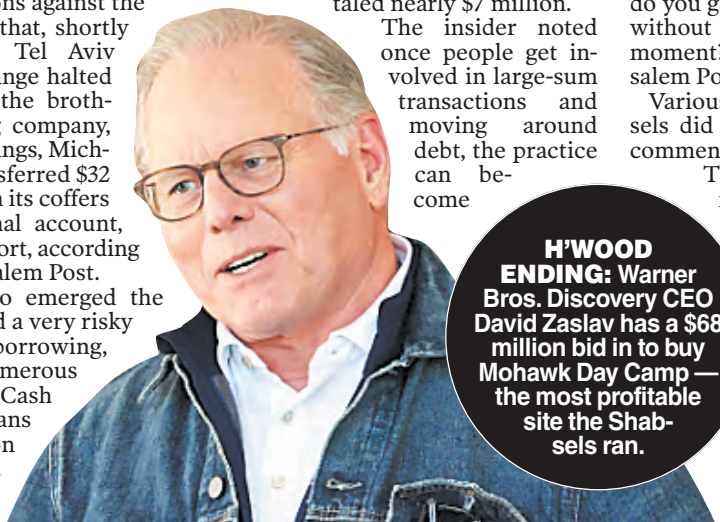
“My kids are enjoying their summer and are unaffected right now,” she told The Post, acknowledging uncertainty has resulted in reduced attendance this year. “I just don’t know how long it will continue.”

Zaslav in mix to buy

However, one unlikely figure who stands to benefit is Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav. He has stepped in with an offer to buy Mohawk, which his kids had attended, which is the most valuable and profitable of all the camps the Shabsels ran, with projected revenue of \$22.5 million in 2026, according to appraisers.

Zaslav, via his holding company Grandview Ventures, put in a \$68 million bid for the camp and its associated pre-school.

“This is a personal family investment that reflects our life-



H'WOOD ENDING: Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav has a \$68 million bid in to buy Mohawk Day Camp — the most profitable site the Shabsels ran.

they could chew, losing camp empire



MOHAWK DAY CAMP

IN-TENTS CRASH: Deep in debt, camp magnates David (far left) and Michael (left) Shabsels find themselves on the brink of losing their fortune that included 30 summer camps across the Northeast.



CAMP BLUE STAR

A \$400M SUMMER BUMMER

long belief that summer camp can be a wonderful part of a child's growth, and Mohawk's history as a successful camp experience for so many kids, including our own," Warner Bros. said in a statement to Town & Country.

Among the larger camps owned in whole or part by the Shabsels were: Camp Lokanda in Glen Spey, NY; Camp Achim in the Catskills; Camp Chen-A-Wanda in Thompson, Pa.; Camp Malka in Greenville, NY; Camp

Lavi, in Lakewood, Pa.; Camp Mesorah in Guilford, NY and Camp Blue Star in Hendersonville, NC.

But moms of campers are worried about the fate of the camps, which hold many family memories, often over generations.

After the financial scandal exploded in June, more than 120 letters from concerned parents were sent to the bankruptcy judge, pleading to help keep the camps going.

"I'm dealing with two little bro-

ken hearts if this doesn't happen the way the way I hope it ends up," one mother wrote.

Shocking fall

The situation has sparked much gossip in the Park Slope community where the Shabsels grew up, sons of Charles Shabsels, a well-established estate planning lawyer, and his wife Susan.

They had developed their entrepreneurial chops in the 1990s with University Sports Publica-

tions, a group of magazines devoted to college sports which landed on 800 campuses. It was so successful in 2009 they sold their share for \$37.5 million.

That windfall helped seed the summer camp venture, under the corporate handle of the now-em-battled Simad Holdings. The brothers also have separate real estate investments under the similar portfolio name, Damis Holdings.

It's a shockingly swift and hard fall for one of the titans in the in-

dustry, according to the camp partner, who noted how David previously attended camp fairs, run by the American Camp Association, where he was looked up to by his peers.

But now, "You can hear it in his voice. The guy's just bummed out . . . People wanted time with him, because he was very successful . . . and he just went from being the Prince of Camps to being investigated by the DOJ," the partner said.

mkaplan@nypost.com

Slay-Suicide twist



By GEORGIA WORRELL

The four children found dead alongside their mom and grandma in an upstate New York apartment were murdered — while their adult relatives died by suicide, authorities revealed this week.

Amy Steadman, 64, and her 44-year-old daughter, Sarah Myers, killed themselves in the Mechanicville apartment where Myers' four children — Harper Harmon, 13, Hudson Harmon, 11, and 10-year-old twins Gavin and Grace-lynn Harmon — were also discovered dead on June 23, Police Chief William Rabbitt told the Times-Union.

The kids' deaths have been ruled homicides, the chief said.

One of the children was fatally stabbed, while the rest appear to have been poisoned, according to Rabbitt.

Funerals in Utah

Police have not disclosed Steadman and Myers' manner of suicide, nor what led up to the kids' murders.

Last month, Rabbitt told reporters prescriptions and over-the-counter medications were found inside the apartment, "indicating

Ma may have helped gran kill kids: cops



SAD: The deaths of four upstate siblings have been ruled homicides, while mom Sarah Myers (with kids) and grandma Amy Steadman (far left) died by suicide, police revealed.

Facebook / Sarah Myers: facebook/amy.steadman.54

intentional poisoning."

At the time, a handwritten note found at the scene "strongly suggested" Steadman was "involved" in the children's deaths, Rabbitt said.

Recently, however, the chief hinted that the grandma may not have acted alone.

"We have not ruled out that Sarah Myers was also complicit in the deaths of her children," Rabbitt told NBC5 last week, adding cops were still awaiting toxicology results.

The six family members were found dead last month after a

neighbor requested a welfare check.

The bodies were too badly decomposed for responding officers to immediately identify them, Rabbitt said at the time.

Rabbitt and the Mechanicville Police Department didn't respond to messages from The Post Friday.

Myers had reportedly been embroiled in a bitter custody battle with her ex-husband and the children's father, Brady Harmon, who lives in Utah.

He had not seen his children in person since November 2019, but they were supposed to be in the

Beehive State between July and September.

He previously told The Post the last time he spoke with the children was for 15 minutes on June 7.

"They seemed like happy little kids," he said.

A funeral for the four children has since been held in Utah, the Times-Union reported.

"We could not bring their bodies home due to the horrific state they were in," Harmon told the outlet. "Their ashes were spread where my father's ashes were laid to rest, on top of a mountain here in Utah."

Gavin luxe tax returns

Gov. Gavin Newsom released years of long-awaited tax returns Friday, revealing California's first family wasn't just paying hefty tax bills — they were also shelling out nearly \$200,000 for household staff, writing off \$45,000 worth of Armani clothing and subsidizing the first partner's film company, which consistently hemorrhaged money.

Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom paid nearly \$200,000 in wages to household employees in 2024, in addition to paying employment taxes for domestic workers and babysitters, according to reporting by The New York Times.

The couple's returns show Siebel Newsom's production company, Girls Club Entertainment, continued losing money. In 2022, the company lost about \$37,000, while Siebel Newsom reported earning just \$11,700 from the business, according to the Times.

Meanwhile, Siebel Newsom has been collecting \$150,000 from her non-profit, The Representation Project, to promote those films and other initiatives.

Newsom himself collected \$70,000 in author income in 2023 and another \$75,000 in 2024. Josh Koehn

Big teach a steppin' fool

This teacher was heavy-footed.

A 350-pound Minnesota science teacher who bizarrely stood on his students to teach them a lesson for making light of a lockdown drill has avoided jail but has been forced to write groveling letters of apology to his victims.

Jason Rogers, 49, was ordered to hand over his teaching license Tuesday after a 2025 incident at the Underwood School, which left one of his victims "walking around like an 80-year-old" and sobbing in agony, according to court docs seen by the Minnesota Star-Tribune. Chris Bradford

'DC Pool' rap dunked

DC US Attorney Jeanine Pirro is moving to dismiss charges against former Olympic canoeist David Hearn for allegedly vandalizing the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, revealing in a Friday court filing that the damage was, in fact, "the result of flawed installation by the contractor."

Pirro's office submitted

the motion to dismiss after Hearn had pleaded not guilty earlier this month to one felony count of destruction of property for the alleged June 19 incident.

But the July 31 court filing reveals that the sealant at the bottom of the Reflecting Pool had "[a]lmost immediately" begun peeling after the work was completed

after the Virginia-based company got a no-bid contract for the renovations.

And the Department of Interior (DOI) "provided less than fulsome information at the outset of this case," Pirro's motion noted.

Reps for DOI did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Josh Christenson

Prez: Let's OK Blanche

President Trump is standing by Todd Blanche as his pick for acting attorney general — and defending a controversial \$1.776 billion "anti-weaponization fund" created as a result of his lawsuit against the IRS — even as GOP senators could delay a confirmation vote for another month.

Trump said during a Cabinet meeting at Camp David Friday that Blanche "should

be approved forthwith," while also doubling down in his defense of the fund — in another rebuke of Sens. John Cornyn (R-Texas) and Thom Tillis (R-NC), who have held up Blanche's vote in the Judiciary Committee. The president mocked Cornyn for being an "angry person" after having lost a Texas Senate GOP primary race in May.

Josh Christenson

Words Matter

'Genocide' charge undermines global justice

WHEN former Mayor Bill de Blasio recently defended current Mayor Mamdani's labeling of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a "war criminal," he pointed to one metric above all: the number of civilian casualties in Gaza.

Mamdani and de Blasio are not alone. Throughout the progressive left and much of the press, the accusation of Israeli "war crimes" and "genocide" has quietly transformed into an accepted default narrative.

But there's a vital question almost nobody bothers to ask: If large civilian casualties alone prove war crimes or genocide, where does that logic stop?

Harry Truman authorized the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Franklin Roosevelt directed a total war that leveled German cities. John F. Kennedy dramatically escalated America's involvement in Vietnam, a conflict that claimed immense civilian tolls. Would de Blasio call Truman a war criminal? Would Mamdani seek an ICC warrant for FDR?

Few Americans would answer yes. Deep down, most people understand that war is judged by context, military necessity and, above all, intent. Or, at least, they used to.

To test these assumptions, we conducted a national survey of 505 Americans. Our results suggest Americans are rapidly abandoning these crucial legal distinctions, driven by a widening partisan and generational chasm.

We expected disagreement over Gaza, but we discovered a profound, systemic erosion of basic definitions.

A majority of respondents (54.6%) labeled Israel's defensive response to the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre as genocide. But the breakdown reveals a striking ideological split: Democrats and younger Americans are far more likely to adopt a flawed "civilian deaths equals genocide" framework. For a massive swath of the electorate, the traditional legal standards of warfare have completely collapsed into raw body counts.

Nor is this true only for Gaza. Respondents also applied the term "genocide" to Russia's invasion of Ukraine (63%) and even Islamist massacres of Black Chris-



Misabeled: Mass destruction and casualties in Gaza isn't "genocide."

tians in Africa (52.3%). Nearly half (44.5%) said Hiroshima and Nagasaki represented genocide, and over 40% said the same about Vietnam.

The core issue here isn't just Israel. It's that a generation of Americans no longer understands what genocide actually means.

**IRWIN J. MANSDORF
& CHARLES JACOBS**

When Raphael Lemkin coined the word after the Holocaust, he wasn't searching for a dramatic synonym for tragedy. He was isolating history's most exceptional crime: the deliberate attempt to destroy an entire national, ethnic, racial or religious group because of its identity.

This understanding became the basis of the 1948 UN Genocide Convention. Under international law, genocide requires explicit intent. Civilian casualties — even catastrophic ones — are not enough.

Without intent, a military action that results in many casualties may be a tragic mistake, a use of disproportionate force or an unlawful attack. But it's not genocide.

Perhaps our most revealing survey finding came when we tested whether respondents would change their minds after being reminded that Hamas openly declares its intention to annihilate Israel and murder Jews. Almost nothing changed.

Many Americans are no longer evaluating the law. Instead, they

judge exclusively by the visible, heartbreaking consequences of modern warfare captured on social media. But humanitarian tragedy and genocide are not the same thing. And words matter, because they distinguish between entirely different realities.

Manslaughter is not murder. Assault is not attempted murder. Unintended civilian casualties are not deliberate war crimes.

These are not semantic niceties; they are the bedrock of global justice.

Tragically, this collapse of definitions is fueled by a wider historical amnesia. Our survey found almost half of those polled either did not know or explicitly disagreed with the fact that radical Islamists were responsible for the attacks of 9/11.

We have entered a dangerous age of ignorance, where historical facts are discarded if they conflict with a preferred ideological narrative. Falsely labeling the war in Gaza a genocide does more than just slander Israel; it degrades the entire architecture of global justice.

When the ultimate crime is weaponized against every brutal conflict, the word loses its boundaries. Ultimately, when everything is called genocide, nothing is.

Irwin J. Mansdorf is a senior fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs. Charles Jacobs is founder of the International Freedom Coalition, which represents communities victimized by jihadist violence.

FAST TAKES

Climate watch: Gore's 'Truth' Aged Badly

Al Gore's alarmist documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" 20 years ago triggered the "inculcation" in "millions of Americans" of the belief that "climate change poses an existential crisis" to humanity, fumes Juan Davis Rojas at UnHerd. Yet his "alarmist claims" of "imminent apocalypse" were always "wildly inaccurate." Climate change is real, but with no real threat of a "terminal risk to humanity." "Rational, commonsense measures" can "mitigate the negative consequences" of warming, including the "expansion" of "wind, solar, geothermal, and nuclear power." "Climate fundamentalists" may shrug at "progress," the world's made "great strides" in emission reduction since 2006. "Anthropogenic climate change is quite real," but Al Gore's "fundamentalist successors" had best note how their obstinacy has "contributed to their own discredit."

Education beat: A Disastrous Discipline 'Reform'

Claims in 2003 that "suspensions and expulsions" were "disproportionately" targeting students with disabilities and boys from Black and Latino communities, effectively pushing them "into the justice system" (called "the 'school-to-prison pipeline'") changed "how schools discipline children" — with terrible results, explain Jennifer Weber & Carolyn D. Gorman at City Journal. Districts began "reducing suspensions and replacing them with mental health-oriented approaches like 'restorative justice,' social-emotional learning, and 'trauma-informed' practices" — of which only encourages "acting out." No! Effective discipline that's tied to "behavior is the only approach that keeps a student in school engaged — and engagement is what keeps him out of the justice system." The best way to keep kids out of prison "is a school that teaches rules, expectations, and how to belong."

2028 watch: DSA's Big Hurdle in Dem Primaries

The Democratic National Committee just "set up a challenge for the DSA" with its schedule of the first six 2028 primaries, notes Jim Geraghty at The Washington Post: South Carolina's black voters were key to Joe Biden fending off Bernie Sanders in 2020; Virginia isn't "natural territory for a socialist upstart" and New Mexico "hasn't been particularly fertile territory for the DSA." For all far lefty Abdul El-Sayed's hopes in Michigan this month, Biden also beat Sanders in that 2020 primary. Nevada and New Hampshire look "more friendly" for socialist candidates; both went to Bernie in 2020, though that's no guarantee for a "DSA-affiliated candidate" like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. It's not "impossible for a socialist candidate to win the 2028 Democratic nomination," but the DNC "stacked the deck in favor of an establishment nominee."

Modern warfare: Drones — Adapt & Survive

At The Hill, Mark Toth & Jonathan Sweet reiterate Gen. David Petraeus' argument "that Ukraine's use of unmanned aerial vehicles represents 'a whole new concept of warfare.'" The melding of "surveillance, targeting and strike capabilities into a unified platform," plus "the advent of artificial intelligence," looks to further revolutionize "how modern warfare is fought." Petraeus is also "worried about the US military's capacity to defend against drones," especially autonomous "drone swarms." Congress needs a sense of urgency to address "AI-driven drone warfare and the need for more defensive assets to defend U.S. fixed positions against them." The same applies to "underwater and space-based drones." Beware: "The nature of the war will soon get away from us if we don't adapt quickly."



David Petraeus

LGBT: Denounce the Hierarchy of Oppression

An Islamist drove his vehicle into last weekend's Berlin Pride parade, "killing a woman and injuring 29 others," but activists are "looking for someone else to blame," laments Seán Atkinson at Spiked. After the attack, "an Antifa flag lying soaked in blood" embodied the "irony": The very people "who wave that flag," have "spent years dismissing concerns about Islamism — and its violent homophobia." They've even blamed "white conservatives" and "gender-critical feminists" for similar attacks. Stop treating gays as "mascots . . . brought out for endorsement season": "If a homophobic attack is motivated by Islamism, say so." — *Compiled by The Post Editorial Board*

Gaza Peace Questions

Fine, Hamas has said it's agreed to lay down its arms as per that 15-point plan from President Trump's Board of Peace, but color us skeptical.

We absolutely hope it proves to be a genuine step toward bringing permanent peace to Gaza, but before we deem it a "historic agreement" as the prez announced, we need some questions answered.

For starters, who decides that Israel and Hamas and its allied terror groups have ceased "all military operations"?

We guarantee that some terrorists will keep shooting at Israeli forces (and even more so, at any Gazans who defy them).

It seems a new International Verification Committee needs creating, but who'll be on it, where will the staff come from, how long will it take to set up — and what happens when one side insists the IVC is wrong about the other side complying?

One enforcement arm is supposed to be the International Stabilization Force, but it's meant to have a mere 5,000 troops — and so far only seems to actually have 200 or so even pledged by a few countries.

Also: What is the "Palestinian law" the plan mentions repeatedly?

There's never been an actual Palestinian state to have any laws; are we talking about statutes created by the Palestinian Authority? By the rump government Hamas has run in Gaza? Something else? And what judges are to interpret this "law"?

More generally, what parts of the Hamas-controlled government will transfer over to the new one under the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, and again who does the vetting of these "civil ser-

vants" selected by various gangs of terrorists? Above all, how can any "existing police structures" possibly be trusted?

Look: It's not even clear who will take custody of any weapons that Hamas turns over, nor what "personal arms" the various terrorists will get to keep. Ones that are legal under that mysterious "Palestinian law," apparently: Does that include AK-47s?

And how the heck is anyone to know that Hamas hasn't kept secret stockpiles? It's not like anyone's done an independent inventory of the multiple terror groups' various arsenals, depots, bomb-making shops, etc.

Does anyone have a full map of the hundreds of miles of tunnels to be destroyed? Or a roster of every terrorist who's to give up his arms, from the several independent groups known to operate in Gaza?

It's over 10 months since the original 20-point peace plan got signed on Oct. 20, and very little has changed on the ground. Hamas hasn't surrendered, renounced its commitments to armed resistance and Israel's destruction or done anything really except reassert its bloody rule of all Gaza inside the Yellow Line.

And the new 15-point plan doesn't seem to come with mechanisms that can change any of that; the only force in the region able to make the terrorists do anything remains the IDF. We guess there's some progress: The plans are down from 20 points to 15, after all.

Clearly, Trump is still pushing hard for real solutions, and he's not a guy who gives up; we're eager to see the diplomats actually deliver at least some hard achievements in the months ahead.

A 'Transparent' Enemies List

Mayor Mamdani claims he doxxed a quarter-million New York City homeowners for the sake of "transparency," but the only thing transparent about Mamdani's action is its falsehood.

The Department of Finance sent notices to just 17,000 owners of homes that it suspects don't live there full-time, units it thinks are valued above the cutoff lines for the new tax. Sending those letters should have been it.

Instead, reportedly at the mayor's personal urging, the DoF released a list of *hundreds of thousands* of names, addresses and property market values, saying that people subject to the state's new pied-a-terre tax "may" be listed on it.

Huh? If the city already mailed bills to the 17,000 people being levied, why create and publish a list that's at least 95% inaccurate?

Early reports indicate that even many tax bills were sent to the wrong people, who now have three weeks to jump through hoops to prove that their apartments or houses are occupied by full-time residents.

Putting out sloppy, mislabeled data revealing personal information isn't transparency — it's intentionally opaque and confusing. The sole possible explanation is that

the mayor's office wanted to embarrass and frustrate people who have the bad taste to own something in a city ruled by socialists who believe that all housing should be public housing.

Plus of course the mayor circulated videos of him smirkingly warning absentee fat cats to check their mail. Let's not forget: This is the same City Hall that issued normally hard-to-get press credentials to some lunatic Luigi Mangione fans; the Mamdani team favors folks who worship an accused assassin.

This is a target list. Consider:

- The NYPD doesn't release a list of the day's arrests, including mugshots and arrest records, though other major cities do.

- The Human Resources Administration doesn't publish a list of everyone who applied for cash assistance or food stamps.

- The Department of Housing Preservation & Development doesn't list everyone who has a rent-stabilized apartment.

It isn't the government's job to wage a campaign of embarrassment or stir up resentment against segments of the population. That's demagoguery, by definition.

Mamdani was inaugurated on a promise to bring New Yorkers together. He lied.

Mayor's Pied-à-Terre Tax: Another Hate-Filled Move

•The pied-à-terre tax foolishness by Mayor Mamdani that includes harassing thousands of New Yorkers who have to prove the city is their primary residence shouldn't be a surprise ("Zo dismisses target practice," July 30).

What everyone seems to be overlooking is that many of the rich people that Mamdani wants to overtax occupy regulated apartments at below-market, protected rents. The buildings in which these apartments are located would be worth more and thus would pay higher taxes if those apartments were not regulated.

The unnecessary pied-à-terre tax might not be needed if politicians like the mayor didn't use rent regulation as a tool to get elected. **Niles Welikson**
Williston Park

•There is more than ample proof that Mayor Mamdani is a terrorist and a terrorist sympathizer. He is putting people in danger by doxxing them.

Yet, despite repeated pleas to Gov. Hochul that she exercise her power and remove Mamdani

THE ISSUE: Mayor Mamdani's list of city residents who might be subjected to his pied-à-terre tax.



Mayor Mamdani

from office, the governor has refused to do so.

Jack Weinberg
Manhattan

•You have finally identified something Mamdani is good at: blowing off concerns.

Not only is he good at blowing off concerns about doxxing residents, he is good at blowing off concerns about antisemitic violence, taxpayer-funded supermarkets that will put countless markets out of business and his and his wife's warmth for terrorist cheerleaders.

The harder he blows off his ineptitude, the faster it comes back and lands on his shoulders once again.

Lynn Koss, Fayetteville

•I suggest those New Yorkers who are unhappy with the new pied-à-terre tax adopt a strategy the left has been using for years: Just put on a mask, block traffic and set a few police cars on fire! **Mike Cavanaugh**
Long Beach

•If Mamdani's tax policies push the wealthy class to leave the city, the loss of revenues will wind up cutting services to the poor, creating more hardship. Mamdani is on track to punish the poor with his policies.

Ed Houlihan
Ridgewood, NJ

•The rich that were doxed by Mamdani have only two choices: Stay under his radical socialist authoritarian rule, or leave the city. **Robert Neglia**
The Bronx

Freytes' Death Is Voters' Fault

•The look on Jacob Freytes' mother's face says it all ("Safety first... for crooks," July 31).

Does anybody even see this woman? Look in her eyes. Who's there to comfort her and all the friends, families and victims of New York politicians?

Last November was no cosmic intervention. New Yorkers are solely to blame. The city I was raised in, once a true beacon for all, is now a sewer infested with the worst kind of rot imaginable.

Keith LePage
Huntington

THE ISSUE: A 12-year-old son of a retired NYPD cop killed by a stray bullet outside a Bronx bodega.

•My prayers go out to Jacob Freytes' family.

There are two things New York City voters have to do to turn the city around: First, you have to show up and vote. Second, you have to vote for people who support the police and also school choice. This is what will give your children a chance for a good life.

Doing the same thing over and over again gets

you the same disinterested politicians.

Bruce Collins
Middletown, NJ

•Many are rightly blaming the mayor for the death of a 12-year-old innocent boy, but at some point they have to look in the mirror. Did they vote for Mamdani or choose not to vote at all? Both choices have brought this on. **Joann Mirone**
Old Greenwich, Conn.

E-MAIL: letters@nypost.com or **WRITE** to The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letters will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Iran War: Echo of Iraq

Even without ground troops, a prez predicament

AN Iran war that was supposed to be brief, and then was supposed to be over, is imposing an increasing price on Donald Trump's presidency.

We've seen a second term of a Republican administration go this way before. There are distinct echoes of George W. Bush's Iraq war — the conflict that Trump has long excoriated — in the president's predicament.

Now, the Iran war is different than Iraq: There is no ground invasion, no regime change, no occupation, no counter-insurgency. The casualties aren't close to the same scale, and Trump has been fighting Iran for months, whereas George W. Bush was embroiled in Iraq for years (and so were his successors).

Yet the political trajectory looks similar. Then, as now, an unpopular conflict is putting downward pressure on a Republican president's approval rating.

Mainstream pollsters routinely have Trump's approval rating below 40%, and some put it below 35%; Fox News has him at 39%, while CNN (34%) and AP (33%) are lower. At this juncture of Bush's second term, his average approval rating was a roughly comparable 38%, although he had further to fall as the war continued and the financial crisis hit.

If the Iran war is not exacting nearly the same price in blood and treasure as the Iraq war, it is inflicting a direct economic cost on Americans that wasn't present

during the Iraq war.

It was often said of violent clashes in the streets of the United States in the 1960s, "The Vietnam war has come home." Well, the Iran war came home the first time the average price per gallon of gasoline went above \$4.

Trump would have much more leeway to engage in a protracted operation to bring Iran to heel if the public could, in effect, forget about the war for a while — but there's a reminder every day of what's happening in the Strait of Hormuz on



RICH LOWRY

gas signs across America. In the CNN poll, 28% approve Trump's handling of Iran, while 25% approve his handling of inflation and 21% of gas prices. These issues are related.

Trump wants his presidency to matter. So, rather than being content with doing whatever he could at the margins to lower prices, he went for big, legacy-defining initiatives — tariffs and the Iran war — that raised prices.

In so doing, he forfeited his signature issue of economic stewardship: In the latest Fox News poll, 33% approve of his handling of the economy and 67% disapprove.

When the memorandum of understanding was signed with Iran, Trump boasted about how, by re-opening the strait, it would avoid

greater economic distress; he said he didn't want to be another Herbert Hoover. Now, the strait is basically closed again. Absent another deal, he's faced with the choice of escalation or an ongoing low-level conflict, neither of which will be palatable to the public.

The CNN poll found that nearly three-quarters of Americans think Trump hasn't paid enough attention to the country's most pressing problems.

The fact is that Iran wasn't a priority for the public, and there was no attempt by the White House to make it one until after it had already launched the war.

The same way Bush's success toppling the Taliban created the predicate for the Iraq war, Trump's stunning capture of Nicolás Maduro made it easier to believe that the Iran war would be a cakewalk.

The idealistic establishment Republicans and the "America First" populists both got lured into overestimating the efficacy of American military power.

We still don't know how Iran will end: Perhaps Trump will manage a satisfactory conclusion, and he has more room to bounce back up again politically than Bush did after years of the Iraq war.

Still, the next Republican president would be well-served to be more prudent and mindful of worst-case scenarios when launching major military operations than either of his two, otherwise very different GOP predecessors.

X: @RichLowry

AN OHIO-NY LESSON ON 'TAX THE RICH'

MAYOR Mamdani is just the latest in a long line of tax-the-rich politicians eager to go after America's business elite — but he should consider how one such war on wealth enriched and empowered the city over which he now presides. If not for Cleveland, Ohio, New York's rise as the nation's undisputed center of capital, commerce and culture may never have happened.

By 1914, John D. Rockefeller was already America's richest man. Standard Oil, the behemoth he originally incorporated in Cleveland, had moved its headquarters to 26 Broadway in New York in 1885 — a decision driven by access to global capital markets, not any hostility toward his home state.

In 1899, though, responding to New Jersey's deliberate decision to actively compete by liberalizing its corporate laws, he reincorporated Standard Oil as a Jersey holding company while retaining his New York City home base.

Two states vied for Rockefeller's enterprise — and both won something.

But Rockefeller's heart remained in Ohio: His wife Cettie loved Forest Hill, their estate in East Cleveland. When Cettie became ill in 1913, Rockefeller stayed through the winter — past Feb. 8, the date that established legal residency for tax purposes in Cleveland's Cuyahoga County. He'd already paid his personal taxes in New York.

Enter John Flackner and William Agnew, Cuyahoga County's tax commissioners. They sent Rockefeller a staggering \$1.5 million tax bill, \$200 million today — and threatened a 50% penalty for non-payment. Then they gleefully publicized it, bragging that when Rockefeller paid up, ordinary residents would enjoy a 20% cut in their own tax burden.

A vivid populist moment, a visible villain, a promised dividend to voters — and no thought for what Rockefeller, with his enormous wealth, could have built in Cleve-

BOB SLOAN

Today, the city is itself engaged in a debate about taxation, regulation and housing. Once again, identifying visible targets brings political rewards. Once again, specific promises of relief to ordinary citizens are attached to extracting more from a small, wealthy, mobile group of individuals. And once again, the politicians aren't pricing in the cost of departure.

The modern Flackner tax is rarely a single itemized bill. It's a cumulative signal: a mansion tax, a pied-à-terre surcharge, a rent freeze. It communicates a change in the city's relationship with the people who fund its institutions and build the future.

Investors don't react to one data point; they react to a trend. Austin,

‘Once again, the politicians aren't pricing in the cost of [rich folks'] departure.’

land had he stayed there part-time.

Rockefeller paid nothing. He left Forest Hill and never came back.

History may vaguely remember the never-paid tax bill, but it fails to recognize the long-term consequences: a century of compounding losses to Cleveland.

Flackner and Agnew are not remembered at all. No monuments, no named institutions, no political careers of consequence. Their 20% tax cut never materialized. Cleveland became the loser — just not on their watch.

What followed was one of the greatest concentrations of private philanthropy, scientific investment, cultural construction and urban development ever associated with a single family and its adopted home city: New York.

Rockefeller University, the Rockefeller Foundation, Rockefeller Center. The UN headquarters, the Museum of Modern Art, the Cloisters. Memorial Sloan Kettering, Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Opera, Chase Manhattan Bank. All of it built in New York, which treated Rockefeller more fairly.

Cleveland got nothing. New York received the next century.

Nashville and Miami are competing for talent with the deliberate ferocity of New Jersey in 1899 — changing their terms, lowering friction, offering welcome as a structural policy rather than an afterthought.

The parallel to Standard Oil's 1899 reincorporation is striking. New Jersey didn't simply receive a company that was leaving Ohio for unrelated reasons; it actively competed for the business, changed its laws, and won.

States that feel like destinations attract destinies. But New York's next century is still being decided.

That's the thing about the mismatch of the short-term trade involved in attracting attention for votes versus the long-term asset of economic consequences.

Unlike in markets, no margin call arrives before an election. The future looks stable right up until the asset has moved. The positioning data always tells the story before the narrative catches up.

Capital is repositioning. The only question is whether New York notices before it becomes the new, very expensive, Cleveland.

Bob Sloan is the author of "Don't Blame the Shorts."

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE

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E1

U1

Y4

M3

F4

R1

P3

A1

A1

L1

C3

L1

C3

T1

A1

U1

Y4

N1

H4

S1

D2

A1

E1

O1

U1

R1

W4

T1

Triple Word Score

RACK 1

1st Letter Double

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160

BEST SCORE 239

FOUR RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

SOLUTION

RACK 1 = 101

RACK 2 = 61

RACK 3 = 17

RACK 4 = 60

TOTAL 239

SCRABBLE

G2

R1

A1

M3

S1

Y4

L1

R1

M3

L1

Y4

A1

U1

A1

S1

E1

F4

C3

D2

W4

R1

T1

N1

T1

E1

P3

C3

H4

O1

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE

G2

R1

A1

M3

S1

PAR SCORE 150-160

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

POST SUDOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.

Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org

PLAY MORE GAMES!

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 30

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Very Easy #7,357

	1	8	6		7	9		
		9		3	5		1	
		5		1		4		2
		6		5				
4			7		1			3
				2		8		
9		1		8		3		
	7		4	9		2		
		4	1		3	6	8	

Difficult #7,147

			9		7		2	
	8							
6	2							7
	6			4	9		5	
2					5			1
	5		3	1			4	
7							9	5
							6	
	1		5		8			

Bridge

West dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠ Q 9 7 5

♥ Q 4

♦ A 8 7 2

♣ 7 5 2

WEST

♠ 8 4

♥ A K J 7 3

♦ J 9 5 4

♣ K 4

EAST

♠ J 3

♥ 9 8 6 2

♦ K 10 6 3

♣ J 10 9

SOUTH

♠ A K 10 6 2

♥ 10 5

♦ Q

♣ A Q 8 6 3

West

1♥

Pass

All Pass

North

Pass

3♠

East

2♥

Pass

South

2♠

4♠

Opening lead – ♥ K

Word Force

DRAGONFLY

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 21** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN MONDAY'S POST

Yesterday's word:

DAYBREAK

baked beady brake

bared beaky bread

bayed beard break

drake raked ready

Simple Saturday columns focus on basic technique and logical thinking.

You're declarer at today's four spades. West, who opened the bidding one heart, cashes the K-A of hearts and leads a trump. You draw trumps; East had J-3. To make your game, you must play the clubs for one loser. You can finesse with your queen -- East may have the king -- or you can take the ace and lead a low club, hoping West, who opened the bidding, has K-x.

Which play do you choose?

Suppose you dig for information: Lead your queen of diamonds. If West has the king, he will surely cover. When he actually plays low, you can place East with the king -- so West must have the king of clubs for his opening bid.

So you don't finesse in clubs. You cash the ace and lead a low club, and when the king appears from West, you win the rest.

This deal is really not "simple," but if you aspire to expert status and want the most enjoyment from the game, "card placing" is a skill to cultivate.

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POPULAR 'GIRLY' TATTOOS

Solution: 9 letters

S R E B M U N O I L E D N A D

E E K A N S T N E L L E N R I

S S P I N E N V O L T G E A A

R S C A N S E O A O E A S N M

O W O A H E C M U L M E ® K R

H A L E L S S Q R C V © S L E

A P L S T R E E A A § U D E M

E L A H E A R T W ⓔ T E B I A

S E R C L O C K N O T S N E N

D A S R R H U E L A T I T E D

U V E T E O E Y D A G U R L A

O E N R D G W S F L C E Y G L

L S I I N F I N I T Y E L A A

C B V W A I S T A C L O V E R

S G N I W R I S T E U Q U O B

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8/1

Angel, Ankle, Bouquet, Cats, Clock, Clouds, Clover, Collar, Cool, Crescent, Crown, Cute, Dandelion, Date, Dreamcatcher, Eagle, Elegant, Heart, Infinity, Keys, Lace, Leaves, Lotus, Mandala, Medusa, Mermaid, Mini, Moon, Numbers, Paws, Planet, Quote, Ribs, Rose, Seahorse, Shapes, Shells, Sleeve, Small, Snake, Spine, Star, Tiger, Tree, Vines, Waist, Wand, Waves, Wings, Wrist

Yesterday's Answer: New Shoes

For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Quick Crossword

Across

1 Many a Maximum Fun collaborator

10 Signal to change a battery

15 Espresso variety

16 Norse pantheon

17 Makes

18 Buttoned-up sort

19 Fashion designer Saab

20 Noted law maker

22 "___ of Me": PJ Harvey album

23 Impetus

25 Poivre partner

26 Ten ahead?

27 WashU's city

28 House Stark patriarch

30 Fed action

32 Show stopper?

34 "Measure twice, cut once," for one

37 Sentimental one

38 Golf course halves

39 Discount emporia

42 Look down upon

43 Goss

44 UFC style

47 Feature of an ungulate

48 Title choice on some forms

50 Contests

52 Fender Deluxe Reverb, e.g.

53 "Help me out, would ya?"

55 WNBA positions: Abbr.

56 Take care of

58 Joint tissue

60 Shinto shrine entrance

61 Race unit

62 First name in landscape photography

63 Drag event?

Down

1 Motorola devices

2 Tamagoyaki, e.g.

3 No answer?

4 Grand Council of the ___: political body in Canada

5 Cause of inflation

6 Security line machine

7 The Village Voice critic Greg who was awarded a posthumous Pulitzer Prize in 2024

8 TMZ alternative

9 Athletic position?

10 Skipper, for short

11 "That girl?"

12 "Consider it done!"

13 Lampoon

14 Antecedes

21 "Frozen" character who sings "In Summer"

24 Ad hoc

26 "Train Dreams" writer Johnson

29 Fighting words?

31 Lack of sensitivity

32 Shortchange

33 "I could ___"

34 Stratovolcano in NorCal

35 "Gimme a break"

36 Highway enforcers

40 Mild

41 Many a "Selling Sunset" cast member

44 Re-strain?

45 Picks a lane?

46 Declare

49 Valencia's country

51 Sign of treble?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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NIELSEN

STREET

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

(C) 2026 Tribune Media Services

53 Get hot

54 "Alligator Boy" in a 2021 Netflix animated film

57 Runoff cause, perhaps

59 "___ Mine": George Harrison book

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AI fears ease

Stocks rose Friday to finish a wild July for Wall Street, lifted by Amazon as the tech heavyweight's strong quarterly report bolstered investor confidence in AI-related stocks. The Nasdaq had an early rally erased before finishing up 1%.

WaPo ed exit

The Washington Post's opinion editor, Adam O'Neal, is leaving the broadsheet at the end of August just a year after he was hired by owner Jeff Bezos to revamp the opinion section.

AI milestone

ChatGPT owner OpenAI has more than one billion active users and two million businesses using its artificial intelligence models. OpenAI said earlier this week it was cutting the price of several of its models.

Colgate rises

Consumer goods giant Colgate-Palmolive recorded higher sales in the second quarter, despite a choppy consumer environment. Net sales in North America, however, dropped 3%.

Rams recalled

Chrysler parent Stellantis voluntarily recalled about 1.5 million Ram 1500 pickup trucks from 2019-2026 to address a seat belt issue.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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Gaming the system?

Attorney General Letitia James (left) is betting she can win a high-profile legal case against prediction market operator Kalshi and CEO Tarek Mansour (right), who she claims are illegally operating their gambling business in New York without a state license.



Reuters, Lone Pine Press

You bet NYS is suing Kalshi!

By ARIEL ZILBER

New York on Friday sued Kalshi, accusing the federally regulated prediction-market operator of running an illegal gambling business in the Empire State in the latest legal challenge to one of the country's hottest startups.

The lawsuit, filed in Manhattan state court by Attorney General Letitia James, alleges Kalshi has been offering New Yorkers illegal gambling products without a state license, exposing consumers — including some between the ages of 18 and 20 — to financial harm while avoiding taxes and regulatory obligations imposed on licensed sportsbooks.

The case, first reported

by Bloomberg News, marks the latest escalation in the increasingly contentious battle over prediction markets, which has also spilled into a deeply personal feud between Kalshi and chief rival Polymarket.

War of the CEOs

As The Post exclusively reported Friday, the rivalry between the two firms has become increasingly vicious behind the scenes, with Polymarket CEO Shayne Coplan allegedly referring to Kalshi as a “copycat,” circulating unsubstantiated personal rumors about Kalshi co-founders Tarek Mansour and Luana Lopes Lara, and growing increasingly frustrated as Kalshi surpassed Polymarket in

trading volume.

Friday's lawsuit adds another headache for Kalshi, which has argued that because it operates as a federally regulated exchange overseen by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, individual states cannot shut down its markets.

“This would also hurt New Yorkers, who would be driven offshore,” Kalshi spokeswoman Elisabeth Diana told Bloomberg.

Gov. Hochul and James countered that Kalshi has ignored New York's gaming laws by failing to obtain a license from the New York State Gaming Commission while side-stepping taxes and consumer protection rules that apply to casinos and mobile sportsbooks.

BANKS' BURDEN LIFTED

‘Lefty Squeeze’ nix

By JAMES FRANEY

The nation's top banking regulators on Friday moved to end what senior Republicans called a decades-old “shakedown” scheme that allowed left-wing groups to squeeze billions of dollars from US banks.

The plan, exclusively obtained by The Post, comes from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, an independent agency inside the Treasury Department, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Together, the two agencies oversee roughly \$26 trillion in US banking assets.

Comptroller of the Currency Jonathan Gould told The Post the new joint rules will stop major banks from buying regulatory favor through donations to progressive activist nonprofits.

Local communities

“Banks are going to actually have to rely upon their record [of] meeting the credit needs of the local communities in which they operate,” he said in an interview.

The blueprint targets the Community Reinvestment Act. The 1977 anti-redlining law was designed to ensure banks meet the credit needs of local communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Federal regulators currently grade banks on local

lending, community investments and branch networks. A poor score can block an institution from securing approval for profitable mergers.

Critics contend banks have long boosted their ratings by donating to advocacy groups that endorse them to regulators.

Threat of protests

The critics claim left-leaning nonprofits use the threat of regulatory protests to strong-arm merging banks into signing massive community-benefits agreements.

Under the new proposal, banks will no longer earn regulatory credit simply by writing checks to activist organizations, according to the copy of the rules obtained by The Post.

Instead, institutions must prove they are directly lending to local families and small businesses.

Banks can still make philanthropic gifts. However, those dollars will no longer count toward federal rating requirements unless the money directly supports local credit needs, the document shows.

Senior Republicans praised the changes.

“For too long, an obscure and convoluted regulation has forced banks to cut checks to left-wing organizations,” said Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.). “This government-mandated shake-down needs real reform.”

Oh, they took the cannoli!

Italian pastry shop La Guli, a beloved Astoria, Queens, institution since 1937, has served its last gingerbread house.

Third-generation owner and chief baker Maria Notaro posted on Facebook this week that the store (right) was “temporarily” closed due to “family matters.”

But the shutdown appears to be permanent. The space at 29-15 Ditmars Blvd. has been stripped of its well-aged wood, terrazzo floor and

glass counters that for generations displayed Sicilian-style cannolis, tricolor cookies and Italian ices.

Gone, too, will be legendary holiday-season gingerbread houses with crackling icing on tops that the cooks made from scratch.

A workman confirmed Wednesday, “It’s gone,” as he wheeled out remnants of the atmospheric bakery.

The reason for the sudden closure wasn’t known. Notaro

couldn’t be reached for comment.

Adding to the mystery, city Finance Department records show that in June, title to the building owned by Rosario Notaro, Maria’s father, and Rosario’s wife Concetta, was transferred to a trust controlled by Maria.

La Guli famously launched a “Pope Francis cookie” in 2015 in honor of the pontiff’s visit to the city.

Steve Cuzzo



Fed boss eyes cut in meets

Fed Chair Kevin Warsh is reportedly thinking of cutting down the number of regular meetings where the central bank sets interest rates — which would be one of the biggest changes to the body’s operations in decades.

He aired the idea of reducing the annual number of meetings from the status quo of eight to an unspecified figure while the Fed was gathered earlier this week, according to The New York Times.

Warsh seemed poised to make a decision on changing the schedule before the Fed’s next meeting in September, the paper reported, citing four people with knowledge of the talks.

Since he first emerged as a candidate to helm the central bank, Warsh has promised to cut down on the kind of monetary pronouncements his predecessors were known for — and which regularly moved markets.

Cutting the frequency of Fed meetings could mark a shift in the body’s direction.

It held interest rates steady in Warsh’s second meeting as chairman on Wednesday, though the committee’s vote revealed growing dissent as three policymakers wanted to hike rates, instead.

After the meeting, Warsh repeatedly emphasized the Fed’s vow to get prices lower, even saying “we will not hesitate to act.”

Ariel Zilber

Apple gets bruised

Shares plunge 7% amid ‘slow growth’ warning

By ARIEL ZILBER

Apple shares plunged 7% on Friday in the tech giant’s worst one-day selloff since April 2025, after it warned that supply constraints and slowing growth would weigh on results in the current quarter — overshadowing an otherwise solid earnings report.

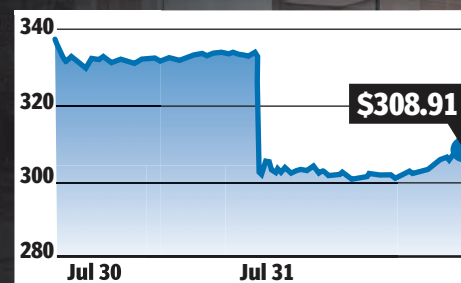
The stock fell as much as 10% before paring losses, wiping out more than \$350 billion in market value, after CEO Tim Cook blamed a “100-year flood” in memory pricing for squeezing profit margins and acknowledged Apple underestimated demand for its iPhone and Mac lineup.

Investors also balked at Apple’s guidance for the September quarter, with the company forecasting revenue growth of 9% to 11%, below Wall Street expectations of roughly 12%.

The dour outlook offset

‘Thanks’ for the memory woe

Apple CEO Tim Cook (who’s handing off the reins on Sept. 1) says a surge in memory-chip prices is squeezing profit margins and resulting in slower growth, spurring traders to dump big positions in the Big Tech behemoth on Friday.



fiscal third-quarter results that topped analysts’ estimates, with Apple reporting revenue of \$109.4 billion and earnings of \$2.02 a share.

June-quarter iPhone sales reached a record

\$54.25 billion, but weaker iPad and services revenue added to concerns that growth is beginning to cool.

Cook, making his final earnings call before handing the CEO reins to John

Ternus on Sept. 1, said the company is grappling with an unprecedented surge in memory-chip pricing that has crimped margins.

He also said Apple’s product shortages stemmed largely from

stronger-than-expected demand rather than broader supply-chain disruptions.

The sharp selloff marked a dramatic reversal for Apple, shares of which climbed to a record high earlier this week and briefly pushed the company above a \$5 trillion market valuation.

Investors will now turn their attention to whether Apple can ease supply constraints and reignite growth as Ternus prepares to take over as chief executive next month.

Meanwhile, Amazon shares surged 15% after the e-commerce giant posted blowout quarterly results, with revenue of \$200.61 billion and earnings of \$5.75 a share easily topping Wall Street expectations.

Investors also cheered accelerating growth at its AWS cloud business and upbeat commentary around AI, prompting a wave of analyst price-target hikes.

Michael Kuenne/PRESSCOV via ZUMA / SplashNews.com

Don AI rules pushback

Big Tech is pushing back against the Trump administration’s effort to stamp out “woke” artificial intelligence — in spite of a recent report finding strongly left-leaning bias among leading AI chatbots.

A software industry trade group representing Microsoft, OpenAI, Oracle, Salesforce and IBM says the administration is setting up AI companies to meet requirements no one can reliably satisfy — a move

they warn could convince some AI vendors that doing business with Washington isn’t worth the headache.

The group, called the Business Software Alliance, is urging the federal General Services Administration to rewrite proposed contract rules that would require AI systems sold to the government to comply with the administration’s “Unbiased AI Principles.”

Ariel Zilber

Musk: No China spinoff

Elon Musk dismissed as “fake news” a report that executives at his electric-vehicle company Tesla have been told to prepare for a separation of its China business ahead of a potential merger with his space exploration firm SpaceX.

Tesla advisers have discussed possible options for a separation, including a spinoff, sale or closure, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

“This has never even come up in a discussion ever,” Musk said on X. “Absurdly fake news.”

A merger between Musk’s Tesla and SpaceX would raise geopolitical and regulatory hurdles, particularly in China, because SpaceX is a major US defense contractor involved in national security and satellite programs, while Tesla operates wholly owned manufacturing facilities in China.

Reuters

Oil crunch & profit gush

America’s largest oil companies reported a blockbuster quarter as the prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz cut off a big chunk of the world’s fuel supplies and sent oil and gas prices soaring.

At ExxonMobil, profits more than doubled from a year earlier to \$14.5 billion, their highest level since the peak of an energy crisis in 2022 kicked off by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Chevron reported record quarterly earnings of \$12.1 billion, a nearly fivefold increase.

Dow Jones

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to the County Government Law of Nassau County, the Nassau County Legislature, upon the written recommendation of the County Executive, considered and adopted on July 27, 2026 Emergency Resolutions 4 and 5 of 2026 and adopted the following ordinances and resolutions:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 43-B-26 PROVIDING FOR A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE TO FINANCE THE CAPITAL PROJECTS IDENTIFIED HEREIN WITHIN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU AND AUTHORIZING \$589,841,556 OF BONDS OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO FINANCE SAID EXPENDITURE PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW OF NEW YORK AND THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY, 218-26 (PW)

ORDINANCE NO. 43-A-26 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 69-2025, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 22-A-2026, ADOPTING THE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF NASSAU FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE FOUR-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN, TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2026, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 310 OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY, 217-26 (PW)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-A-2026 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A WARRANT DIRECTING THE TREASURER OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU TO PAY TO THE SUPERVISORS OF THE SEVERAL TOWNS AND TO THE TREASURERS OF THE SEVERAL VILLAGES AND CITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, THE SUMS APPORTIONED BY THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE BASED ON A REPORT FILED BY THE COUNTY TREASURER AND THE COUNTY CLERK, SHOWING DEPOSITS FROM MORTGAGE TAXES FOR THE QUARTER BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026; PURSUANT TO THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY AND THE NASSAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (CLERK ITEM 197-26)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-B-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GLEN COVE IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 198-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. C-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 2 (TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD) IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 199-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. D-2026 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE WESTBURY MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 200-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. E-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GLEN COVE IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 201-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-F-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 202-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-G-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CARLE PLACE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 203-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-H-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE WESTBURY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 204-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-I-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 2 (TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD) IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 205-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-J-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH HEMPSTEAD FIRE DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 206-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-K-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE OCEANSIDE FIRE DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 207-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-L-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF LYNBROOK IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 208-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-M-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE LAKEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 209-26

RESOLUTION NO. 127-N-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF WESTBURY IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 210-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-O-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BALDWIN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 211-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-P-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT 10-524 IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 212-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-Q-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF FREDRICKTOWN IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SERVICES AND GOODS, 213-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-R-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SERVICES AND GOODS, 214-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-S-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE LAKEVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SERVICES AND GOODS, 215-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-T-2026 DECLARING A CAPITAL BUDGET EMERGENCY PURSUANT TO §310(d) OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW OF NASSAU COUNTY, 216-26 (AT)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-U-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIONDALE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 219-26 (CE) RESOLUTION NO. 127-V-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE HEMPSTEAD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 220-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-W-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GLEN COVE IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO REMEDIATE CRESCENT BEACH, 221-26 (PW)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-X-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 222-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-Y-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 223-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-Z-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PORT WASHINGTON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 224-26 (CE) RESOLUTION NO. 127-AA-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF MINEOLA IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 225-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-BB-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIONDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS, 226-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-CC-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE ATLANTIC BEACH FIRE DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 227-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-DD-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE WOODMERE FIRE DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 228-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-EE-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 229-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-FF-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH FARMINGDALE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 230-26 (CE) RESOLUTION NO. 127-GG-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PORT WASHINGTON NORTH IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 230-26 (CE) RESOLUTION NO. 127-HH-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH ELMONT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 232-26 (CE)

RESOLUTION NO. 127-II-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GLEN COVE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 233-26 (CE) RESOLUTION NO. 127-JJ-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH PORT WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO RENOVATE THE LIBRARY'S LOCAL HISTORY CENTER ARCHIVES, 234-26 (CE) RESOLUTION NO. 127-KK-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MUSEUMS AND MERRICK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC. 235-26 (PK) RESOLUTION NO. 127-LL-2026 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BETHPAGE FIRE DISTRICT IN RELATION TO A PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES, 236-26 (CE)

Copies of the Ordinances, Resolutions and Emergency Resolutions and are on file and may be obtained in the Office of the Clerk of the Nassau County Legislature during normal business hours. BY ORDER of the Nassau County Legislature of the County of Nassau, New York. Dated: July 27, 2026, Garden City (Mineola Post Office), NY. **MICHAEL C. PULITZER** Clerk of the Legislature.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of BC Wedding Co. LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/23/2026. Office location: Nassau County, SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Benjamin Cornejo; Benjamin.cornejo@yahoo.com. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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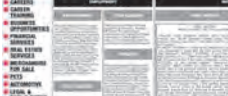
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SON' OF A ...: Gotham FC's Emily Sonnett receives attention after suffering a ruptured patellar tendon in her left knee July 24. She will be out for the season. [Imagn Images](#)

Sonnett injury
leaves void for
Gotham FC

By MADELINE KENNEY

Gotham FC's backline took a hit this week as the club confirmed Friday that star center back Emily Sonnett suffered a season-ending knee injury.

Sonnett left the pitch on a stretcher with a left knee injury early in Gotham's 2-2 draw in Portland on July 24.

The club announced Friday that Sonnett had surgery to repair the ruptured patellar tendon in her left knee and will miss the remainder of the 2026 season.

Sonnett's injury is not only a big blow for the defending NWSL champions, who are currently second in the standings behind the Washington Spirit, but also potentially for the U.S. women's national team, with the 2027 World Cup happening in less than 11 months.

Gotham didn't provide a recovery timeline. Recovery from the surgery can vary between six and 12 months.

"Emily has the full support of everyone at the club, and we will be with her every step of the way throughout her recovery," Gotham president of soccer operations Yael Averbuch West said in a statement. "She is incredibly resilient, and we know she will return stronger."

Sonnett has served as an anchor to Gotham's defense the past three seasons, including in last year's championship run, the 2025 Concacaf W Champions Cup and this year's NWSL Challenge Cup

This season, Gotham is tied with the Spirit for fewest goals allowed with 12.

Sonnett, a three-time NWSL champion, has appeared in 64 matches for Gotham since she joined the team ahead of the 2024 season. The former No. 1 overall pick has earned three all-league defender honors.

Sonnett has made 118 appearances for the U.S. women's national team. She's a two-time Olympian, capturing the gold at the 2024 Paris Games. She was also a member of the team that won the 2019 FIFA World Cup.

[mkenney@nypost.com](#)

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NOTICES

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My sister Is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. She is suffering on dialysis, which will eventually end her life: blood type is O+. Average wait time in NY 1s 7 years. If anyone wants to help by being a kidney donor, Please email me at imoner451@outlook.com. God bless you.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	64	45	.587	—	—	7-3	L-1	40-17	24-28
Yankees	62	48	.564	2½	+6½	6-4	W-1	26-23	36-25
Boston	58	51	.532	6	+3	7-3	W-3	25-29	33-22
Baltimore	54	56	.491	10½	1½	5-5	W-2	30-27	24-29
Toronto	51	59	.464	13½	4½	5-5	W-2	27-30	24-29

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	58	51	.532	—	—	5-5	W-3	34-21	24-30
Cleveland	56	55	.505	3	—	3-7	L-1	27-27	29-28
Minnesota	56	55	.505	3	—	7-3	W-2	30-27	26-28
Detroit	52	58	.473	6½	3½	5-5	W-1	30-27	22-31
Kansas City	46	65	.414	13	10	5-5	L-2	26-27	20-38

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Houston	56	55	.505	—	—	9-1	W-4	27-27	29-28
Texas	55	55	.500	½	½	5-5	L-3	28-25	27-30
Seattle	53	58	.477	3	3	2-8	L-3	30-24	23-34
Athletics	45	65	.409	10½	10½	2-8	L-3	21-34	24-31
Los Angeles	42	68	.382	13½	13½	3-7	L-4	24-32	18-36

*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Yankees 2, Cubs 0
White Sox 6, Tampa Bay 1
Arizona 4, Cleveland 1
Baltimore 6, Philadelphia 4
Toronto 3, St. Louis 1
Boston 9, L.A. Dodgers 4
Minnesota 5, Seattle 3
Colorado 3, Kansas City 1
Houston 11, Texas 2
Detroit 13, Athletics 1
Milwaukee 6, L.A. Angels 2

Saturday

Yankees at Cubs, 7:15
St. Louis at Toronto, 3:07
White Sox at Tampa Bay, 4:10
Minnesota at Seattle, 4:10
Philadelphia at Baltimore, 7:05
Texas at Houston, 7:10
Arizona at Cleveland, 7:15
Kansas City at Colorado, 8:10
Boston at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10
Milwaukee at L.A. Angels, 9:38
Detroit at Athletics, 9:40

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	65	45	.591	—	—	7-3	W-3	34-20	31-25
Philadelphia	57	53	.518	8	—	2-8	L-4	28-27	29-26
Miami	56	55	.505	9½	1½	4-6	W-1	34-23	22-32
Washington	55	56	.495	10½	2½	4-6	L-3	23-34	32-22
Mets	47	64	.423	18½	10½	5-5	L-1	25-32	22-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	68	41	.624	—	—	6-4	W-1	36-20	32-21
Chicago	62	48	.564	6½	+5	6-4	L-1	30-23	32-25
Pittsburgh	55	56	.495	14	2½	3-7	L-4	29-28	26-28
St. Louis	54	56	.491	14½	3	3-7	L-2	28-32	26-24
Cincinnati	52	57	.477	16	4½	7-3	W-2	25-30	27-27

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	69	41	.627	—	—	6-4	L-1	33-21	36-20
Arizona	58	52	.527	11½	+1	7-3	W-3	31-22	27-30
San Diego	56	54	.509	13½	1	7-3	W-1	30-25	26-29
San Francisco	47	63	.427	22½	10	5-5	L-1	26-27	21-36
Colorado	43	67	.391	26½	14	3-7	W-1	25-29	18-38

*WGB: Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Yankees 2, Cubs 0
Miami 5, **Mets** 2
Cincinnati 8, Pittsburgh 7
Arizona 4, Cleveland 1
Baltimore 6, Philadelphia 4
Toronto 3, St. Louis 1
Atlanta 6, Washington 2
Boston 9, L.A. Dodgers 4
Colorado 3, Kansas City 1
San Diego 7, San Francisco 0
Milwaukee 6, L.A. Angels 2

Saturday

Miami at **Mets**, 4:10
Yankees at Cubs, 7:15
St. Louis at Toronto, 3:07
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 6:40
Philadelphia at Baltimore, 7:05
Arizona at Cleveland, 7:15
Washington at Atlanta, 7:15
Kansas City at Colorado, 8:10
San Francisco at San Diego, 8:40
Boston at L.A. Dodgers, 9:10
Milwaukee at L.A. Angels, 9:38



Puzzles on Page 26

2	1	8	6	4	7	9	3	5
6	4	9	2	3	5	7	1	8
7	3	5	9	1	8	4	6	2
3	9	6	8	5	4	1	2	7
4	8	2	7	6	1	5	9	3
1	5	7	3	2	9	8	4	6
9	6	1	5	8	6	2	3	7
8	7	3	4	9	2	5	1	
5	2	4	1	7	3	6	8	9

Solution to Very Easy #7,357

5	3	1	9	8	7	6	2	4
4	8	7	6	2	3	5	1	9
6	2	9	4	5	1	3	8	7
1	6	3	7	4	9	2	5	8
2	7	4	8	6	5	9	3	1
9	5	8	3	1	2	7	4	6
7	4	2	1	3	6	8	9	5
8	9	5	2	7	4	1	6	3
3	1	6	5	9	8	4	7	2

Solution to Difficult #7,147

Yankees 2, Cubs 0

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Rice dh	4	0	1	0	0	2	.269
Rosario 3b	3	1	1	1	0	2	.235
McMahon 3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.207
Dominguez rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.229
Grisham cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Volpe ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.244
Jones lf	2	1	1	1	1		.236
Sánchez c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.235
Wells ph-c	0	0	0	0	1	0	.162
Caballero 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.239
Totals	29	2	4	2	3	8	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.283
Ramírez 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.319
Busch 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Bregman dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Happ lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.219
Hoerner 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.255
Swanson rf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.232
Conforto rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.214
Amaya c	3	0	1	0	0	2	.243
Totals	31	0	5	0	0	10	

Yankees	000	110	000	—	2	4	0
Chicago	000	000	000	—	0	5	0

LOB: New York 3, Chicago 4. **2B:** Amaya (9), **HR:** Rosario (10), off Imanaga; Jones (4), off Imanaga. **RBIs:** Rosario (28), Jones (12). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 1 (**Rice**); Chicago 3 (Crow-Armstrong, Hoerner, Bregman). **RISP:** New York 0 for 3; Chicago 0 for 3. **GIDP:** Grisham, Goldschmidt, Busch. **DP:** New York 1 (Goldschmidt, Volpe, Goldschmidt); Chicago 2 (Hoerner, Busch; Swanson, Busch).

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Warren, W, 8-5	6.2	4	0	0	0	7	88	4.14
Blackburn, H, 3	1.1	0	0	0	0	3	19	2.10
Bednar, S, 23-25	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	11	2.68

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Imanaga, L, 7-9	6.2	4	2	2	0	6	101	3.67
Ferguson	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	24	6.14
A.Kelly	1.1	0	0	0	1	1	18	0.00

T: 2:27. A: 40,129 (41,363).

Reds 8, Pirates 7

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf	4	1	2	2	1	1	.304
B.Lowe 2b	5	1	3	1	0	2	.257
Reynolds lf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.268
Valdez rf	3	1	0	1	1	1	.271
O'Hearn dh	4	0	1	0	1	0	.270
Gonzales 3b	4	1	2	2	0	0	.318
Rodríguez 1b	5	1	1	0	0	2	.259
Gonzalez ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Triolo ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Davis c	4	1	1	1	0	0	.173
Totals	38	7	12	7	3	8	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	3	1	1	0	2	1	.279
Stewart 1b	5	2	2	4	0	0	.255
Bleday lf	3	2	1	1	2	1	.229
Stephenson c	3	1	1	1	2	2	.252
N.Lowe dh	5	0	2	1	0	2	.258
I.Johnson pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.100
Suárez 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.200
Hayes 3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.141
Myers cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.276
Marte rf	4	1	3	0	0	1	.200
McLain 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.192
Totals	35	8	12	7	7	12	

Pittsburgh	210	010	030	—	7	12	1
Cincinnati	201	200	03x	—	8	12	0

E: B.Lowe (10). **LOB:** Pittsburgh 9, Cincinnati 10. **2B:** B.Lowe (25), Stephenson (15), Marte (7). **3B:** De La Cruz (5). **HR:** Mangum (3), off Greene; Bleday (19), off Skenes; Stewart (23), off Skenes. **RBIs:** Gonzales 2 (49), Mangum 2 (23), Valdez (37), Davis (29), B.Lowe (71), Stephenson (30), N.Lowe (35), Bleday (46), Stewart 4 (84). **SB:** Mangum (20), B.Lowe (2). **SF:** Valdez. **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 5 (Valdez, Reynolds 2, Rodríguez 2); Cincinnati 6 (De La Cruz, Marte 2, Myers, Hayes 2). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 6 for 13; Cincinnati 4 for 14.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skenes	4.0	7	5	5	4	7	100	3.90
Kelly	3.0	2	0	0	2	3	40	6.14
Dotel, L, 1-4,	0.1	3	3	2	0	1	18	5.11
BS, 0-1								
Montgomery	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	12	3.80
Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Greene	6.0	7	4	4	2	4	91	6.83
Moll, H, 5	0.2	0	0	0	1	2	16	4.36
Ju.Garcia, H, 2	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	12	4.1
Ferguson, H, 3	0.1	2	2	2	0	0	7	4.18
P.Johnson,	0.2	3	1	1	0	1	17	4.96
BS, 1-2								
Pagán, W, 4-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	14	4.63

T: 2:58. A: 30,618 (43,891).

Marlins 5, Mets 2

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Hicks dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.269
Edwards 2b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.291
Lopez ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.322
Stowers 1b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.237
Conine rf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.269
Ruiz rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Hernández lf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.236
Marsee cf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.198
Mack c	4	1	2	2	0	1	.238
Sanoja 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.265
Totals	33	5	8	5	2	6	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing lf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.268
Lindor ss	3	1	2	1	1	1	.233
Bichette 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.256
Benge rf	4	0	3	0	0	0	.266
Robert cf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.195
Young 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.253
Baty 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.220
Semien ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.210
Polanco dh	4	1	0	0	0	2	.135
Alvarez c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.254
Totals	34	2	7	2	12		

Astros 11, Rangers 2

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	1	1	1	2	0	.254	
Foscue ph-dh-2b	1	0	0	0	0	.260	
Langford lf	4	0	1	0	0	1 .277	
Seager ss	3	1	2	0	0	1 .189	
Cauley ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	1 .227	
Nimmo rf	4	0	0	0	0	1 .264	
Duran 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1 .269	
Carter cf	4	0	2	1	0	0 .207	
Burger 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1 .236	
Lopez 2b-p	4	0	0	0	0	0 .289	
Wynns c	2	0	0	0	0	0 .091	
Osuna ph	0	0	0	0	0	0 .258	
Diaz ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1 .248	
Totals	33	2	8	2	2	7	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	5	1	3	3	0	1 .317	
Alvarez dh	3	0	2	2	2	1 .324	
Dezenzo ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0 .222	
Paredes 3b	3	1	2	2	2	0 .257	
Walker 1b	5	1	1	1	0	0 .235	
Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2 .231	
Allen 2b	1	1	1	0	0	0 .265	
Trammell cf-lf	5	1	1	0	0	1 .237	
Diaz c	5	2	4	1	0	0 .261	
Wade lf	3	1	1	1	1	1 .175	
Spence pr-cf	1	1	1	1	0	0 .162	
Smith rf	5	2	2	0	0	2 .207	
Totals	41	11	18	11	5	8	

Texas	000 002 000 — 2 8 0
Houston	030 120 41x — 11 18 0

LOB: Texas 6, Houston 12. **2B:** Seager (7), Trammell (6), Wade (3), Peña (11). **3B:** Smith (2). **HR:** Pederson (20), off Brown; Paredes (15), off Eovaldi; Walker (22), off Eovaldi; Diaz (8), off Curvelo. **RBIs:** Pederson (42), Carter (29), Wade (12), Alvarez 2 (82), Peña 3 (34), Paredes 2 (60), Walker (63), Diaz (26), Spence (3). **CS:** Carter (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 2 (Seager, Burger); Houston 5 (Walker 2, Dezenzo 2, Paredes). **RISP:** Texas 2 for 6; Houston 8 for 15.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eovaldi, L, 10-9	5.0	10	6	6	1	5	94	4.31
Curvelo	2.0	4	4	4	4	2	54	9.58
Lopez	1.0	4	1	1	0	1	24	9.00

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Brown, W, 3-1	5.2	6	2	2	2	5	104	3.42
De Los	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	10	4.26
Santos	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	9	3.38
Sousa	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	3.69
King	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	13	3.66

T: 3:01. A: 36,621 (41,000).

Rockies 3, Royals 1

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	4	1	1	1	0	1 .235	
Thomas cf	3	0	1	0	1	0 .230	
Caglianone 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1 .251	
Perez dh	4	0	2	0	0	1 .214	
Massey 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0 .262	
Collins lf	4	0	1	0	0	0 .242	
Rave rf	3	0	1	0	0	0 .292	
Rojas 3b-ss	3	0	0	0	0	0 .237	
Velazquez ss	2	0	0	0	0	0 .067	
a-Loftin ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1 .251	
Totals	32	1	6	1	1	4	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy lf	4	0	0	0	0	1 .289	
Moniak dh	4	1	1	0	1	0 .278	
Goodman c	4	0	0	0	0	3 .251	
Rumfield 1b	4	0	1	1	0	0 .293	
Karros 3b	3	1	2	0	0	1 .266	
Freeman 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0 .250	
Johnston rf	3	1	0	0	0	0 .283	
Carrigg rf	0	0	0	0	0	0 .296	
Doyle cf	3	0	1	1	0	1 .211	
Tovar ss	3	0	0	0	0	1 .196	
Totals	31	3	5	2	0	8	

Kansas City	000 001 000 — 1 6 2
Colorado	100 200 00x — 3 5 0

a-struck out for Velazquez in the 8th. **E:** Massey (2), Rojas (2). **LOB:** Kansas City 5, Colorado 4. **2B:** Moniak (13), Doyle (5). **3B:** Collins (2). **HR:** Jensen (15), off Sugano. **RBIs:** Jensen (54), Rumfield (54), Doyle (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Kansas City 2 (Rojas, Rave); Colorado 3 (Freeman, Johnston, Tovar). **RISP:** Kansas City 1 for 3; Colorado 2 for 8.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wacha, L, 5-8	6.0	5	3	1	0	7	99	3.51
Pearson	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3.27
McGee	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0.00

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sugano, W,	6.2	5	1	1	0	2	83	4.47
11-4								
Senzatela, H, 4.0	2	1	0	0	0	1	9	3.61
Bernardino,	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	13	2.58
H, 6								
Romano, S, 9-11	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	5.74

T: 2:08. A: 39,317 (50,144).

Padres 7, Giants 0

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 2b	3	0	1	0	0	1 .328	
Basabe 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0 .000	
Ramos lf	3	0	0	0	0	1 .264	
Gilbert lf	1	0	0	0	0	0 .236	
Edridge dh	3	0	0	0	0	2 .250	
J.Rodriguez ph	1	0	0	0	0	0 .235	
Devers 1b	2	0	0	0	1	0 .247	
Lee rf	3	0	0	0	0	0 .300	
Adames ss	3	0	0	0	0	0 .225	
McCray cf	3	0	0	0	0	1 .150	
Cavanaugh c	3	0	0	0	0	1 .245	
Koss 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0 .184	
Totals	29	0	2	0	1	6	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	3	2	1	0	2	0 .286	
Ramirez 2b	3	3	1	0	2	1 .238	
Machado 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1 .214	
France 1b	2	0	2	3	1	0 .287	
Merrill cf	4	1	0	0	0	1 .234	
Campusano dh	4	0	3	1	0	0 .306	
Bogaerts ss	4	0	1	0	0	1 .218	
Fermin c	4	0	1	0	0	1 .170	
Bowen lf	4	1	2	1	0	1 .167	
Totals	32	7	12	6	5	6	

San Francisco	000 000 000 — 0 2 0
San Diego	201 301 00x — 7 12 0

LOB: San Francisco 3, San Diego 8. **2B:** Tatis (22), Machado (19). **HR:** Bowen (1), off Whisenhunt. **RBIs:** Machado (65), Campusano (15), Bowen (6), France 3 (49). **SB:** Rengifo (5), Tatis (26). **SF:** Machado, France. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 0; San Diego 4 (Campusano, Bogaerts, Machado, Tatis). **RISP:** San Francisco 0 for 0; San Diego 4 for 14.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Whisenhunt,	3.1	7	6	6	4	3	74	6.63
L, 2-2								
Houser	4.2	5	1	1	1	3	64	4.71

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
B.Rodriguez	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	2.28
Matsui, W, 2-1	3.0	1	0	0	0	2	49	2.38
Márquez, S,	5.0	1	0	0	1	2	70	4.67
1-1								

T: 2:33. A: 44,057 (40,222).

Tigers 13, Athletics 1

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle 3b-ss-3b	3	2	1	2	2	1 .285	
Torres dh	5	0	0	0	1	1 .263	
Dingler c	6	1	2	4	0	1 .269	
Greene lf	4	0	0	0	1	1 .277	
Outman lf	0	0	0	0	0	0 .162	
Lee 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1 .269	
Keith ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1 .263	
Valencia ph	1	0	1	0	0	0 .417	
McKinstry pr-2b	1	1	0	0	0	0 .206	
Torkelson 1b	4	3	3	0	1	0 .216	
Clark cf	4	2	3	1	1	0 .750	
Báez ss-2b-ss	5	2	3	3	0	0 .304	
Malgeri rf	4	2	1	2	1	1 .282	
Totals	40	13	14	12	7	7	

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kurtz 1b	2	0	0	0	1	2 .256	
Serven ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0 .250	
Wilson dh	3	1	1	0	0	1 .276	
Heim c-1b	3	0	1	1	1	0 .236	
Soderstrom lf	4	0	0	0	0	0 .240	
White 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1 .269	
Butler rf	4	0	0	0	0	2 .206	
Bolte cf	2	0	1	0	0	1 .248	
McNeil 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1 .246	
Williams ss	1	0	0	0	0	0 .262	
Walton ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	0 .292	
Ornelas ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	0 .000	
Totals	29	1	3	1	3	7	

Detroit	001 100 074 — 13 14 0
Athletics	100 000 000 — 1 3 1

E: White (2). **LOB:** Detroit 8, Athletics 5. **2B:** McGonigle (1), Clark 2 (2), Heim (12). **HR:** McGonigle (10), off Springs; Dingler (23), off Morales; Malgeri (1), off Morales. **RBIs:** McGonigle 2 (39), Clark (1), Báez 3 (11), Dingler 4 (72), Malgeri 2 (7), Heim (35). **SB:** Greengr (3). **CS:** Bolte (7). **SF:** McGonigle. **Runners left in scoring position:** Detroit 6 (Torkelson, McGonigle, Torres, Greene, Lee 2); Athletics 2 (Soderstrom, White). **RISP:** Detroit 5 for 16; Athletics 0 for 3.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Holton	2.0	1	1	1	1	1	24	3.10
Madden, W,	3.0	2	0	0	2	2	56	2.40
1-0								
Sommers, H, 7	2.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	4.32
De Jesus	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	21	3.74

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Springs, L, 3-11	4.0	4	2	2	5	2	86	6.17
Juenger	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	20	5.15
Basso	2.0	4	3	2	2	0	30	5.14
Morales	2.0	6	8	8	1	1	4714	0.06

T: 2:41. A: 8,926 (14,014).

Brewers 6, Angels 2

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	3	1	1	2	2	0 .271	
Chourio lf	5	1	1	0	0	3 .273	
Yelich dh	5	0	1	0	0	1 .240	
Contreras c	4	1	1	0	1	1 .272	
Bauers 1b	4	2	2	3	1	0 .269	
Mitchell cf	4	0	2	0	1	1 .269	
Lara rf	4	0	0	0	1	1 .261	
Hamilton 3b	5	0	0	0	0	0 .236	
Pratt ss	2	1	1	1	2	1 .288	
Totals	36	6	9	6	8	8	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	0	1	0	0	2 .232	
Trout cf	4	0	0	0	0	1 .241	
Schanuel 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1 .279	
Soler dh	4	0	0	0	0	1 .202	
Grissom 2b	4	1	1	0	0	2 .264	
Adell rf	3	0	0	0	0	3 .242	
Guzman 3b	3	1	1	2	0	0 .237	
d'Arnaud c	2	0	0	0	0	0 .189	
Meckler ph-lf	0	0	0	0	0	0 .297	
Heinemann c	0	0	0	0	0	0 .179	
Sirir lf	1	0	0	0	1	0 .260	
Lowe ph	1	0	0	0	0	0 .200	
Totals	30	2	4	2	1	10	

Milwaukee	010 050 000 — 6 9 0
Los Angeles	000 020 000 — 2 4

The *POST* Line

MLB Saturday		
Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	\$106-126	CUBS
METS	\$110-132	Marlins
MARINERS	\$139-168	Twins
RAYS	\$146-176	White Sox
Rangers	\$107-128	ASTROS
Tigers	\$117-139	ATHLETICS
Pirates	\$103-124	REDS
BRAVES	\$160-194	Nationals
PADRES	OFF	Giants
BLUE JAYS	\$122-146	Cardinals
Phillies	\$117-141	ORIOLES
GUARDIANS	\$138-166	Diamondbacks
Royals	-101-119	ROCKIES
DODGERS	\$142-171	Red Sox
Brewers	\$104-123	ANGELS

Home team in CAPS

WNBA Saturday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Liberty	1.5 (175.5)	MERCURY
Aces	6.5 (183.5)	SKY

CFL Saturday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Stampeders	4.5 (59.5)	TIGER-CATS
ELKS	1.5 (59.5)	Roughriders

NFL-Preseason Thursday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Panthers	1.5 (36.5)	Cardinals
game held in Canton, OH		

NFL Wed. Sept. 9		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
SEAHAWKS	3.5 (44.5)	Patriots
Thur. Sept. 10		
RAMS	3.5 (48.5)	49ers
Sun. Sept. 13		
Cowboys	2.5 (47.5)	GIANTS
TITANS	3 (38.5)	Jets
LIONS	7 (49.5)	Saints
JAGUARS	7.5 (40.5)	Browns
Bears	2.5 (44.5)	PANTHERS
Bills	1.5 (44.5)	TEXANS
Ravens	3.5 (49.5)	COLTS
BENGALS	3.5 (52.5)	Buccaneers
STEELERS	3 (41.5)	Falcons
CHARGERS	11.5 (46.5)	Cardinals
EAGLES	4.5 (47.5)	Commanders
RAIDERS	3.5 (40.5)	Dolphins
Packers	1.5 (45.5)	VIKINGS
Monday		
CHIEFS	3 (42.5)	Broncos
Home Teams in CAPS		

TOP PLAY

Don't expect Yankees to Max out Fried vs. Cubbies

By DYLAN SVOBODA

The Yankees are not asking Max Fried to immediately carry a full starter's work-load.

The southpaw missed more than two months with a bone bruise in his throwing elbow before returning July 22.

Although the Yankees brought him back earlier than initially planned, manager Aaron Boone said Fried would not be working with a "full clip" and that the priority was continuing to build him up.

Fried looked dominant in his return, allowing just one hit across five scoreless innings against the Pirates, but he was removed after only 57 pitches.

His second outing showed why betting on Fried to pitch deep remains risky.

Fried needed 32 pitches to navigate the first inning against the White Sox and was ultimately pulled after three innings and 66 pitches, allowing three runs on five hits and two walks while striking out four.

The Yankees increased Fried's workload by only nine pitches between his first two starts back on the mound.

Even another modest increase would likely leave him somewhere around 75 pitches Saturday night against the Cubs.

That is a difficult number with which to complete six innings, particularly against one of baseball's best lineups versus left-handed pitching.



MAX FRIED

Chicago ranks second in MLB with a .788 OPS against southpaws, batting .265 with a .355 on-base percentage and .433 slugging percentage.

Fried has recorded exactly 15 and nine outs in his two starts since returning.

He would need to complete five innings and record at least one out in the sixth to clear a total of 15.5.

With the Yankees remaining cautious and the Cubs capable of extending innings, bet Fried to go under 15.5 outs recorded.

THE PLAY: Max Fried to record fewer than 15.5 outs

STITCHES

Redbirds over Bluebirds

Our picks have been as dead as LIV Golf. Looking for a fresh start in August.

And there is no pitcher fresher than the Cardinals' Quinn Mathews. He will be making his MLB debut in Toronto after going 5-3 with 111 Ks for the Memphis Redbirds. The Bluebirds counter with the veteran Kevin Gausman, who has pitched 2,032 2/3 innings in the majors. \$50 on Quinn and the Cards.

-\$

Goodbye July! The month will be

missed as much as I miss Stephen Colbert and the FIFA World Cup.Stop me if you've heard this one.

First off Paul Skenes was awful. But Hunter Greene was just as effective. The Pirates took a late 7-5 lead. Ready? All together now! The Reds scored three runs and won 8-7. At least the Royals had the decency to lose 3-2 to the Rockies without the drama attached. Historically bad run has us at -627 kentekulves.

stitches@nypost.com

TENNIS

Favorites to win 2026 U.S. Open singles championships

Men's

PLAYER	ODDS	PLAYER	ODDS	PLAYER	ODDS
Jannik Sinner	-145	Aryna Sabalenka	+250	Jessica Pegula	10/1
Carlos Alcaraz	+280	Iga Swiatek	+600	Victoria Mboko	12/1
Alexander Zverev	+950	Coco Gauff	+600	Karolina Muchova	16/1
Novak Djokovic	16/1	Elena Rybakina	+600	Linda Noskova	16/1
Daniil Medvedev	30/1	Mirra Andreeva	+700	Madison Keys	20/1
Felix Auger-Aliassime	35/1	Naomi Osaka	+700	Barbora Krejcikova	20/1
Taylor Fritz	35/1	Amanda Anisimova	+900	Emma Raducanu	25/1

Women's

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026		*REC	'25 vs OPP		CAREER vs OPP	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA		W-L	ERA		W-L	IP	ERA
Marlins	Phillips (R)		2-5	3.52	5-6	0-1	3.12	0-1	0-2	10.1	5.23
Mets	Thornton (L)	(4:10pm)	2-1	2.43	2-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	19.1	1.40
Cardinals	Mathews (L)		0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	0.00	0.00	0-0	0.0	0.00
Blue Jays	Gausman (R)	(3:07pm)	4-10	4.51	8-14	0-0	0.00	1-5	0-2	15.1	5.87
Phillies	Sánchez (L)		13-4	2.73	16-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	3-0	18.1	3.44
Orioles	Baz (R)	(7:05pm)	4-9	3.98	6-15	0-1	16.20	0-1	0-0	15.0	2.40
D'Backs	Drake (L)		0-0	5.00	1-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	9.0	5.00
Guardians	Messick (L)	(7:15pm)	8-6	2.58	12-9	0-0	1.35	0-0	1-1	19.1	1.40
Yankees	Fried (L)		4-3	3.23	7-5	—	—	6-1	0-1	11.0	4.91
Cubs	Peterson (L)	(7:15pm)	6-7	5.80	5-8	0-0	1.50	1-0	2-0	17.1	1.56
Royals	Avila (R)		5-3	4.95	8-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	15.2	4.60
Rockies	Feltner (R)	(8:10pm)	3-5	5.73	6-9	0-0	1.29	0-0	0-3	11.2	13.11
Red Sox	Tolle (L)		6-6	3.32	8-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	14.2	4.30
Dodgers	Yamamoto (R)	(9:10pm)	11-6	2.72	—	—	—	0-0	2-1	21.0	3.86
Brewers	Gasser (L)		3-4	4.71	6-5	—	—	0-0	1-1	14.0	6.43
Angels	Soriano (R)	(9:38pm)	9-6	3.29	12-10	—	—	0-1	1-1	17.0	2.65
White Sox	Schultz (L)		3-7	6.15	4-9	0-1	6.23	0-1	1-1	12.0	6.75
Rays	Rasmussen (R)	(4:10pm)	9-5	3.07	11-9	0-0	0.00	0-1	2-1	14.1	5.02
Twins	Prielipp (L)		3-5	4.73	6-8	1-0	3.60	1-0	1-0	16.2	3.24
Mariners	Gilbert (R)	(4:10pm)	8-6	3.44	13-8	0-0	1.80	2-1	1-1	18.1	4.91
Rangers	deGrom (R)		7-6	3.67	11-9	0-1	4.50	1-3	0-1	14.2	4.91
Astros	Blanco (R)	(7:10pm)	0-1	8.10	1-1	0-0	0.00	2-2	0-2	16.0	6.75
Tigers	Valdez (L)		5-7	4.53	8-13	1-0	1.29	6-4	1-1	12.2	6.39
Athletics	Perkins (R)	(9:40pm)	2-6	6.45	1-7	—	—	0-1	0-2	14.1	7.53
Pirates	Ashcraft (R)		10-4	4.05	14-7	0-1	1.32	0-2	1-1	14.0	10.29
Reds	Abbott (L)	(6:40pm)	5-6	3.85	11-11	0-1	5.73	2-1	0-1	16.0	3.38
Nationals	Mikolas (R)		3-7	5.65	5-4	0-0	0.00	3-4	1-1	17.0	8.47
Braves	López (R)	(7:15pm)	4-3	3.64	7-4	0-1	15.00	0-2	0-2	15.0	5.40
Giants	Mahle (R)		3-9	4.96	6-11	0-0	0.00	1-2	2-1	18.0	2.00
Padres	Buehler (R)	(8:40pm)	6-5	5.13	14-7	1-1	6.75	8-3	1-0	13.0	5.54

*REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

Home Team Lineups					
	HOME	AWAY			
	TODAY Aug. 1	SUN Aug. 2	MON Aug. 3	TUE Aug. 4	WED Aug. 5
	Cubs 7:15 Fox 660 AM 101.9 FM	Cubs 2:20 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	St. Louis 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	St. Louis 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	St. Louis 7:05 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Miami 4:10 SNY 880 AM	Miami 1:40 SNY 880 AM	NO GAME	Cleveland 6:40 SNY 880 AM	Cleveland 6:40 SNY 880 AM
	Phoenix 3:00 ABC	NO GAME	Seattle 7:00 My9	NO GAME	Seattle 7:00 Fox 5 USA
Today		Thursday		Today	
	Orlando City SC 7:30 Apple TV		Santos Laguna 7:30 Apple TV		Houston Dash 8:00 NWSL+

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER: NYCFC settle for home draw

Nicolás Fernández scored for the fourth straight game early in the first half, but New York City FC lost the lead late in stoppage time before halftime and settled for a 1-1 draw with Toronto FC at Yankee Stadium.

NYCFC (7-6-5, 26 points) was unable to win three straight for the second time this season as its offense stalled after **Fernández** converted a penalty kick in the ninth minute. **Djordje Mihailovic** scored a minute into first half stoppage time for Toronto FC (3-7-8, 17 points).

MLB: Orioles rally to beat Phillies

Gunnar Henderson hit a two-run triple in a four-run seventh inning and the Orioles rallied again, this time to a 6-4 victory over the Phillies in Baltimore. **Pete Alonso** connected on his 23rd home run early for Baltimore.

After the game, the Orioles sent veteran right-handed pitcher **Dean Kremer** to the Twins for minor league outfielder **Jhonnardo Reyes**.

● In Houston, **Yainer Diaz** homered and tied a career high with four hits and **Isaac Paredes** and **Christian Walker** also went deep to lead the Astros to an 11-2 rout of the Rangers that put them in first place in the AL West.

● In St. Petersburg, Fla., **Miguel Vargas**, **Andrew Benintendi**, **Munetaka Murakami** and **Colson Montgomery** homered and the White Sox beat the Rays 6-1.

● In Cleveland, **Geraldo Perdomo** and **Gabriel Moreno** had back-to-back RBI singles off Erik Sabrowski in a four-run eighth inning, lifting the Diamondbacks to a 4-1 victory over the Guardians.

NCAA: 2022 athletes given fifth-year eligibility

U.S. District Court Judge **Charlotte Sweeney** ruled in Colorado that a class-wide preliminary injunction will grant college athletes from the class of 2022 a fifth season of eligibility for the upcoming 2026-27 season.

The NCAA had changed the eligibility rule to guarantee all athletes a five-year, age-based eligibility starting Aug. 1, but it did not apply to the high school class of 2022.

GOLF: Young shares 2nd-round Rocket lead

Cameron Young birdied seven of his first eight holes in the second round of the Rocket Classic in Detroit and thought he had a shot at the lowest score in PGA Tour history. “I was thinking 55,” he said.

Young cooled off with two birdies on his back nine in a bogey-free round, closing with a Detroit Golf Club record-tying 61 to reach 10 under for the tournament to tie **Patrick Cantlay** (66) and **Patrick Fishburn** (66) atop the leaderboard.

● In Lytham St. Annes, England, **Haeran Ryu** birdied No. 18 to complete a 2-under 69 for a one-shot lead after two rounds of the British Women’s Open as the South Korean star pursues a third consecutive major victory. **Shiho Kuwaki** of Japan was one shot back after her 70.

ODDS & ENDS

NHL	
Favorites to win 2026-27 Stanley Cup	
TEAM	ODDS
Panthers	+650
Avalanche	+750
Hurricanes	+800
Golden Knights	+850
Oilers	+900
Lightning	12/1
Wild	14/1
Stars	17/1
Capitals	17/1
Canadiens	20/1
Maple Leafs	30/1
Ducks	33/1
Mammoth	33/1
Sabres	35/1
Devils	35/1
Kings	40/1
Senators	40/1
Sharks	40/1
Flyers	55/1
Blue Jackets	66/1
Rangers	80/1
Penguins	80/1
Bruins	100/1
Islanders	125/1
Red Wings	150/1
Jets	150/1
Predators	175/1
Blackhawks	200/1
Blues	200/1
Kraken	400/1
Flames	500/1
Canucks	500/1

Favorites to win Eastern Conference	
TEAM	ODDS
Panthers	+340
Hurricanes	+375
Lightning	+600
Capitals	+700
Canadiens	11/1
Maple Leafs	17/1
Devils	18/1
Sabres	19/1
Senators	22/1
Flyers	28/1
Blue Jackets	35/1
Rangers	40/1
Penguins	40/1
Bruins	55/1
Islanders	55/1
Red Wings	60/1

Favorites to win Western Conference	
TEAM	ODDS
Avalanche	+340
Oilers	+450
Golden Knights	+450
Wild	+650
Stars	+750
Mammoth	14/1
Ducks	15/1
Sharks	17/1
Kings	18/1
Jets	50/1
Blues	60/1
Predators	66/1
Blackhawks	100/1
Kraken	150/1
Flames	250/1
Canucks	250/1

BET SMART

Blueliners will be bugaboo for Isles in loaded East

By MICHAEL LEBOFF

Seven weeks before NHL training camps open, we already have a good sense of what the betting market thinks of the 2026-27 season.

For the Islanders, it’s not flattering.

Most sportsbooks have the Isles as the longest shot to win the Metropolitan Division, and they’re near the bottom of the Eastern Conference futures board alongside the Bruins and Red Wings.

The market isn’t projecting the Isles to be awful. Their season point total sits at 88.5, but oddsmakers expect them to struggle in an Eastern Conference that looks set to return to being a gauntlet after an unusual 2025-26 campaign, when perennial contenders like the Panthers and Maple Leafs took unexpected steps back.

There will be plenty of Islanders fans who think this is a harsh projection for a team that has a handful of terrific pieces. Matthew Schaefer should only get better in his sophomore campaign. Ilya Sorokin was just the runner-up for the Vezina Trophy. The club hired one of the most respected coaches in the league, Pete DeBoer. And while the forward group may not be elite, there’s a lot to like about a core of Bo Horvat, Mathew Barzal, Simon Holmstrom, and Kyle Palmieri.

Throw in some bounce-back candidates and emerging talents like Cal Ritchie and Victor Eklund, and you can see the case for the Islanders springing a surprise.

The problem is the case against the Islanders is a lot more robust.

It starts with their environment. The East is going to be a beast this season.

The Hurricanes return most of the same group that just won the Stanley Cup. The Panthers added Brady Tkachuk to a roster that is one season removed from back-to-back championships. The Canadiens are primed to join the elite ranks of the league. The Capitals loaded up in the summer. The Tampa Bay Lightning are

the Tampa Bay Lightning. And we haven’t even mentioned the Sabres, who are coming off their best season in 20 years.

It’s hard to envision a world where the Islanders can compete with that group. They’ve just got too many holes. The biggest of which is on the blueline.

Outside of Schaefer, there are more questions than answers among the blueliners. Adam Pelech is a steadying presence, but last campaign was his first healthy one since 2021-22. He missed at least a quarter of the previous three seasons.

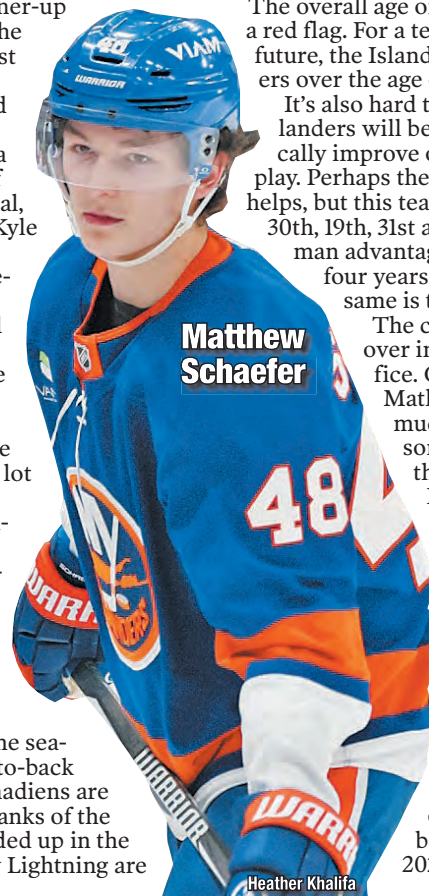
While Pelech has been consistent when on the ice, the opposite is true of Scott Mayfield, Ryan Pullock, and Alexander Romanov, all of whom return and will be expected to play big roles for DeBoer. All three are best served as bottom-pair, defensive defensemen, but the Islanders are not deep enough for that to be the reality. It’s not good when half your blueliners are going to be asked to do more than they’re likely capable of.

The overall age of the roster is also a red flag. For a team looking to the future, the Islanders have 15 players over the age of 30.

It’s also hard to see how the Islanders will be able to drastically improve on their power play. Perhaps the coaching change helps, but this team has finished 30th, 19th, 31st and 30th on the man advantage over the last four years. More of the same is to be expected.

The concerns spill over into the front office. General manager Mathieu Darche spent much of the off-season selling fans on the cap space the Islanders will have next summer, not the team they’ll ice this fall.

Schaefer, Sorokin and DeBoer make anything possible. But it’s tough to buy into a team whose own front office appears to be focused on 2027-28.



Heather Khalifa

Holmes continues rehab as trade deadline looms

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Clay Holmes is preparing as if he will pitch Sunday.

Less clear is which team — or maybe which affiliate — he will pitch for.

The Mets right-hander threw a side session at Citi Field on Friday and appeared to come through it OK. Interim manager

METS NOTES

Andy Green said the pitcher and team would huddle to determine the next step, but that Holmes was throwing with the “intent” to pitch Sunday.

The Mets are hosting the Marlins on Sunday, which is one day before the trade deadline. On Friday, the Mets were not willing to risk the health of Freddy Peralta, who was scratched from his expected start to ensure he will be healthy and valuable for a trade partner.

It is possible the Mets take the same tack with Holmes, who is expected to be shopped but is not quite the trade certainty that Peralta is, given his health and given that he theoretically could be extended or given a qualifying offer. Still, Holmes likely will be pitching for another team by the deadline.



HERE ... OR SOMEWHERE ELSE: Clay Holmes, shown pitching in May, is recovering from a fractured fibula and plans to make a rehab start Sunday. The question is, will he still be a Met in two days?

Robert Sabo

“Obviously things change really quick at this time of the year with everything that’s spinning,” Green said before losing, 5-2, to the Marlins, “and that could possibly change, but [pitching Sunday] is his intent and that’s what he’s headed towards.”

The 33-year-old has made two rehab starts and built up to 59 pitches over four innings as he returns from a fractured fibula. It is possible he makes a third rehab start — which

would draw plenty of scouts from interested clubs — though that did not sound likely.

“He certainly wants to be back in the big leagues as quickly as possible, and I think everybody in the organization respects that and appreciates that,” said Green, whose club has listed Zac Thornton as its expected starter Saturday and TBA for Sunday.

► Lefty **Cionel Pérez**, who has pitched well and allowed two runs in his

past 8 ⅔ innings, was placed on the 15-day injured list with a left forearm strain. The Mets called up righties **Jonathan Pintero** and **Xzavion Curry**, who showed the club guts in gritting through five two-run innings and throwing 62 pitches in relief of Kodai Senga.

► **Francisco Lindor** stroked a homer to the second deck in right field in the seventh inning, which was his 150th home run as a Met. He passed **Carlos Beltrán** for sole possession of seventh on the franchise’s all-time list.

► On Saturday, the Mets will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the 1986 World Series champions. The Mets ask fans to be in their seats by 3:30 p.m.

Included in the reunion will be several moderated discussions with members of the championship team, including **Ron Darling, Kevin Elster, Sid Fernandez, Keith Hernandez, Howard Johnson, Lee Mazzilli, Roger McDowell, Kevin Mitchell, Bobby Ojeda, Jesse Orosco, Rafael Santana, Doug Sisk, Darryl Strawberry, Tim Teufel** and **Mookie Wilson**.

msanchez@nypost.com

Giants dock Bader’s pay after scooter crash

By EVAN WEBECK

SAN DIEGO — The ramifications of Harrison Bader’s late-night scooter crash have gone beyond the lines and into his bank account.

The Giants will not issue any more paychecks for the time being to the free agent outfielder they signed to a two-year, \$20.5 million contract last winter after Bader reportedly rode his scooter into the back of a fire engine as bars began to let out last weekend.

President of baseball operations **Buster Posey** announced the drastic move in a statement Friday, almost a week after Bader

crashed his scooter in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The crash, Posey said, “delayed Harrison’s prior treatment timeline for plantar fasciitis and, unfortunately, his return to the field.” While the club continues to investigate the circumstances of the crash, the Giants “will be suspending payment to Harrison until he is able to resume performing services for the Club.”

The Giants’ legal department had been looking into Bader’s crash, according to the San Francisco Standard, and there exists language in MLB’s collective bargaining agreement that could back

up the organization’s move to penalize him financially.

Section 5(b) of the CBA prohibits players without written consent from their team from engaging in activities “involving a substantial risk of personal injury,” which could apply to the operation of a motorized scooter, though that is not expressly outlined in the provision.

Although manager **Tony Vitello** said it would have been a “long shot” for Bader to return from the plantar fasciitis that had kept him out since May, the crash ended any doubt that he was done for the season after appearing in only 30 games.

Potentially aiding the Giants’ case, the incident took place at 1:50 a.m. Sunday in the heart of one of San Francisco’s liveliest nightlife districts as bars began to close.

Bader was supposed to undergo imaging Tuesday for the organization to learn the extent of the injuries suffered in the crash, but they had yet to make those results available as of Friday.

The outfielder, batting .170 with a .557 OPS, is owed more than \$10 million on the contract that runs through 2027. He was paid a \$6 million signing bonus in addition to a \$4.5 million base salary.

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	2	3	39	33	12
Inter Miami CF	11	2	4	37	43	30
New England	9	5	2	29	26	19
	8	6	2	26	30	22
NYCFC	7	6	5	26	31	24
Charlotte FC	7	6	4	25	28	25
Cincinnati	6	6	5	23	41	42
Red Bulls	6	7	4	22	26	37
D.C. United	5	5	7	22	24	27
Orlando City	6	9	2	20	28	44
Columbus	5	8	4	19	24	26
Toronto FC	3	7	8	17	24	32
CF Montréal	4	10	3	15	22	33
Philadelphia	3	10	4	13	22	31
Atlanta	3	11	3	12	17	30
WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	3	33	37	16
Los Angeles FC	10	5	3	33	34	18
San Jose	10	4	3	33	35	20
Real Salt Lake	8	6	2	26	28	24
Houston	8	6	2	26	23	24
FC Dallas	7	5	5	26	32	25
St Louis City	7	6	4	25	23	23
Seattle FC	7	6	3	24	19	20
Minn. United	6	6	5	23	19	24
Portland	6	8	3	21	31	32
LA Galaxy	5	7	6	21	24	29
San Diego FC	5	7	5	20	31	28
Colorado	6	10	1	19	26	25
Austin FC	4	8	5	17	22	35
Sporting K.C.	4	11	2	14	18	44

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Friday

Toronto FC 1, NYCFC 1

Saturday

Orlando City at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm
San Jose at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Nashville at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Columbus at Miami, 7:30pm
New England at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver, 7:30pm
Charlotte FC at Chicago, 8:30pm
Houston at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm
San Diego FC at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Salt Lake at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Austin FC at Colorado, 9:30pm
FC Dallas at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
Seattle FC at Portland, 10:45pm

Saturday, August 8

Houston at New England, 4:30pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	11	3	3	36	26	12
Gotham FC	10	3	4	34	22	12
Utah Royals FC	9	5	3	30	26	18
San Diego	9	6	2	29	23	19
Portland	8	5	4	28	27	20
Kansas City	9	7	1	28	28	24
North Carolina	7	6	3	24	26	23
Orlando	7	9	2	23	22	26
Angel City	7	7	1	22	23	16
Seattle	6	7	2	20	17	19
Denver Summit FC	5	6	4	19	21	20
Houston	5	7	4	19	19	24
Boston Legacy FC	5	8	4	19	18	23
Bay FC	5	8	3	18	16	21
Chicago	4	12	0	12	8	31
Louisville	3	11	2	11	19	33

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday

North Carolina 5, Orlando 0

Saturday

Chicago at Louisville, 4pm
Angel City at Kansas City, 6:30pm
Gotham FC at Houston, 8pm
Seattle at Bay FC, 8:45pm

Sunday

San Diego at Washington, 4pm
Portland at Utah Royals FC, 7pm
Boston Legacy FC at Denver Summit FC, 9pm

Wednesday

North Carolina at Denver Summit FC, 10pm

Friday, August 7

San Diego at **Gotham FC**, 8pm

Golf

PGA Tour- Rocket Classic

At North Course; Detroit; Purse: \$10 million; Yardage: 7,328; Par: 70

Second Round

Patrick Cantlay	64-66	130	-10
Patrick Fishburn	64-66	130	-10
Cameron Young	69-61	130	-10
Rickie Fowler	63-68	131	-9
Matt Wallace	67-64	131	-9
Michael Brennan	65-67	132	-8
Ryan Gerard	63-69	132	-8
Doug Ghim	65-67	132	-8
Michael Kim	65-67	132	-8
Chris Kirk	65-67	132	-8
Peter Malnati	61-71	132	-8
Davis Riley	68-64	132	-8
Xander Schauffele	66-66	132	-8
Keegan Bradley	65-68	133	-7
Jacob Bridgeman	68-65	133	-7
Luke Clanton	66-67	133	-7
Emiliano Grillo	66-67	133	-7
Stephan Jaeger	65-68	133	-7
Justin Lower	68-65	133	-7
Michael Thorbjornsen	69-64	133	-7
Ricky Castillo	66-68	134	-6
Corey Connors	67-67	134	-6
Russell Henley	67-67	134	-6
Mark Hubbard	66-68	134	-6
David Lipsky	67-67	134	-6
Marco Penge	70-64	134	-6
Adrien Saddler	67-67	134	-6
Brandt Snedeker	66-68	134	-6
J.J. Spaun	67-67	134	-6
Jordan Spieth	68-66	134	-6
Kris Ventura	68-66	134	-6
Zac Blair	69-66	135	-5
Austin Eckroat	67-68	135	-5
Tony Finau	68-67	135	-5
Joe Highsmith	68-67	135	-5
Rico Hoey	66-69	135	-5
Nicolai Hojgaard	66-69	135	-5
Benjamin James	67-68	135	-5
Si Woo Kim	69-66	135	-5
Ben Kohles	70-65	135	-5
Hank Lebioda	69-66	135	-5
Hideki Matsuyama	67-68	135	-5
Thorbjorn Olesen	67-68	135	-5
Kevin Roy	69-66	135	-5
Adam Schenk	67-68	135	-5
Nick Taylor	69-66	135	-5
Davis Thompson	67-68	135	-5
Brian Campbell	68-68	136	-4
Zecheng Dou	69-67	136	-4
Harris English	67-69	136	-4
Max Greyserman	68-68	136	-4
Ryo Hisatsune	66-70	136	-4
Beau Hossler	69-67	136	-4
Sungjae Im	67-69	136	-4
Johnny Keefe	66-70	136	-4
Jackson Koivun	66-70	136	-4
Matt Kuchar	68-68	136	-4
Matthew McCarty	70-66	136	-4
Keita Nakajima	69-67	136	-4
Gordon Sargent	67-69	136	-4
Karl Vilips	69-67	136	-4
Kevin Yu	66-70	136	-4

LPGA Tour- AIG Women’s Open

At Royal Lytham & St. Annes; Lancashire, United Kingdom; Purse: \$10 million; Yardage: 6,601; Par: 71

Second Round

Hae-Ran Ryu	66-69	135	-7
Shiho Kuwaki	66-70	136	-6
Yealimi Noh	67-70	137	-5
Jeenno Thitikul	64-73	137	-5
Soo Bin Joo	70-69	139	-3
Lauren Coughlin	69-71	140	-2
Charley Hull	69-71	140	-2
Minami Katsu	72-68	140	-2
Lucy Li	72-68	140	-2
Paula Martin Sampedro	69-71	140	-2
Chanettee Wannasaen	68-72	140	-2
Lottie Woad	69-71	140	-2
Jing Yan	72-68	140	-2
Celine Boutier	67-74	141	-1
Robyn Choi	71-70	141	-1
Jin Hee Im	70-71	141	-1
Lydia Ko	71-70	141	-1
Nelly Korda	73-68	141	-1
Mimi Rhodes	71-70	141	-1
Kajsa Arweffjall	73-69	142	E
Esther Henseleit	73-69	142	E
Rio Takeda	69-73	142	E
Aunchisa Utama	73-69	142	E
Yana Wilson	70-72	142	E
MinJi Kang	71-72	143	+1
Auston Kim	75-68	143	+1
Julia Lopez Ramirez	74-69	143	+1
Anna Nordqvist	73-70	143	+1
Mao Saigo	69-74	143	+1
Shannon Tan	69-74	143	+1
Yuna Araki	73-71	144	+2
Amanda Doherty	73-71	144	+2
Lindy Duncan	75-69	144	+2
Hannah Green	71-73	144	+2
Nasa Hataoka	73-71	144	+2
Brooke Henderson	72-72	144	+2
Alice Hewson	70-74	144	+2
Aki Iwai	72-72	144	+2
Ariya Jutanugarn	73-71	144	+2
Sei Young Kim	72-72	144	+2
Jenny Shin	72-72	144	+2
Dewi Weber	75-69	144	+2
Archchaya Yubol	70-74	144	+2

Champions Tour- Portugal Invitational

At The Els Club Vilamoura; Quarteira, Portugal; Purse: \$3 million; Yardage: 7,335; Par: 72

First Round

Zach Johnson	31-33	64	-8
Rory Sabbatini	31-34	65	-7
Alex Cejka	34-32	66	-6
Padraig Harrington	31-35	66	-6
Mikael Lundberg	31-35	66	-6
Charlie Wi	31-35	66	-6
Chad Campbell	33-34	67	-5
Stewart Cink	34-33	67	-5

Post Time: **12:30 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com



Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of
the Day

Booked (6th)
Lock Record: **9 for 16 (56%)**
Meet Record: **41/169 \$269.80**

1 1 1/16 miles(T); \$115,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

Jim Dandy day at the Spa. The Saratoga Special and Lake George are also on the 12 race card...Five 2YO races including the early double. **VOYAGER** Runnerup both starts on dirt incuding the Schuylerville. Casse stretches the Justify filly longer to make grass debut. Irad rides. Edge over first-time starters **CORRELATION TRADE** (Klaravich/Brown/Prat/New Bay) and **BASHFULLY** (J Ortiz/Pletcher/Life Is Good).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Pavlova's Palace(GB),123	J Alvarado	5-x-x	Mott	6-1
2	Bashfully,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Pletcher	9-2
3	Correlation Trade(GB),123	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	2-1
4	Bittersweet Memory,123	D Davis	x-x-x	Danner	8-1
5	Voyager,123	I Ortiz, Jr	2-2-x	Casse	8-5
6	So Angelina,123	C Elliott	5-7-x	Arriaga	30-1
7	Bolt Island,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Casse	10-1
8	Joy of Life,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	5-2

2 6 fur; \$115,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

A wide open baby race. **CYBER BABY** (Clement/Prat/Cyberknife) and **VELORA** (Rice/J Ortiz/Yaupon) are live first-timers. **ANNOTATE** was a wide 4th of 10 here weeks ago. Santana subs for J Ortiz. **DOITFORJACK** (Walsh/Saez/Jackies Warrior) and **LOT OF LOON** (Cox/Irad/Mandaloun) load the gate first time as well.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Blessednotbothered,123	K Carmouche	3-x-x	Ferraro	8-1
2	Annotate,123	R Santana, Jr	4-6-x	Asmussen	6-1
3	Luck Penny,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Weaver	8-1
4	Velora,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Rice	7-2
5	Cyber Baby,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Clement	9-2
6	Lot of Loon,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	5-1
7	Harlow Drive,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Englehart	8-1
8	Doitforjack,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Walsh	6-1
9	Wildest Dreams,123	J Alvarado	4-x-x	Englehart	10-1

3 1 mile; \$95,000; c1m(\$100,000); 4up

We saw Todd Pletcher's **TUSCAN SKY** finish 8th behind Chad Brown's **REASONED ANALYSIS** who was 3rd. Tuscan Sky won the Pegasus at Monmouth 2 years ago. Hasn't won since, but gets a rider change to Prat for the rematch. Reasoned Analysis was racing off the layoff and will be a short price, 2nd off the shelf. **OTELLO** was 3rd, a couple of lengths back of the winner **ELIMNATE** at the Big A. Otello is now 2 for 4 at this distance. Eliminate is 2 for 10. **GEWURZTRAMINER** Board hitter 6 straight including a win in March.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Gewurztraminer(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	2-3-2	LaRose	4-1
2	Tuscan Sky(L),121	F Prat	8-3-5	Pletcher	6-1
3	Dreamlike(L),121	R Santana, Jr	3-2-2	Rice	9-2
4	Otello(L),123	S Gonzalez	3-3-3	Kantarmaci	8-1
5	Eliminate(L),123	K Carmouche	1-3-1	Rice	5-1
6	Reasoned Analysis(L),121	D Davis	3-1-3	C Brown	2-1
7	Mr. Papagiorgio(L),123	J Ortiz	4-1-1	R Dutrow	6-1

4 6 fur; \$115,000; mdn; 2YO

Career debuts for all but two one of these 2YOs. Top 2 **CYBERSTEEL** (Cox/Irad/Cyberknife) and **DREAM MORE** (Pletcher/Prat/Gun Runner). **PINPOINT** missed the break and debuted a midpack 5th. Pletcher's colt gets another chance. Santana subs for Prat. **SUBJUGATION** ran home a clear 2nd in his opener at Ellis. J Ortiz picks him up for Asmussen. **CHIEF OF STAFF** (Gargan/Saez/Nyquist) is another dangerous debuter.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Subjugation,123	J Ortiz	2-x-x	Asmussen	9-2
2	Jackpot Rocket,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	10-1
3	Farsideofthemoon,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Green	10-1
4	Chief of Staff,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Gargan	6-1
5	Apotheon,123	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Mott	15-1
6	Cybersteel,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	4-1
7	Pinpoint,123	R Santana, Jr	5-x-x	Pletcher	8-1
8	Roll Wave,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Proctor	6-1
9	Dream More,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Pletcher	3-1

5 6 fur; \$115,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

More 2YOs. **JUDY'S ROCKETTE** (Mott/Alvarado/Constitution) and **WYNA** (Cox/Irad/Complexity) should fire at 1st asking. **FIRST SITE** was 3rd, then 2nd at Aqueduct. Rider change to J Ortiz. **LIFE CHANGING** (Pletcher/Saez/Life Is Good) and **FAIR PRACTICE** (Brown/Prat/Tacitus) make career debuts as well.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Charlotte's Beach,123	K Carmouche	4-x-x	Casse	8-1
2	Judy's Rockette,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	6-1

3	Amelia in Air,123	D Davis	x-x-x	Beckman	10-1
4	Fair Practice,123	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	8-1
5	Maybe It's Destiny,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Sweezy	15-1
6	Wyna,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	4-1
7	Virabhadrasana,123	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	LaRose	6-1
8	Life Changing,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Pletcher	5-1
9	Flightress,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	McGaughy III	8-1
10	First Site,123	J Ortiz	2-3-x	A Dutrow	6-1

6 6 1/2 fur; \$250,000; Saratoga Special; 2YO

The only stake winner in the Saratoga Special is **BOOKED**, who won the Sanford by open lengths here on the 4th of July. Asmussen's colt adds a Grade 2 to his resume. **FLIGHT COMMAND** (by 10 lengths at Aqueduct), **TWINKLE TOWN** (by a 1/2 dozen at Churchill) and **HOWS AL TODAY** (by 2 lengths at Churchill) enter off debut Ws.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	How's Al Today,122	L Saez	1-x-x	Mott	6-1
2	Rasasi,122	E Zayas	4-1-x	Sano	15-1
3	Twinkle Town,122	J Ortiz	1-x-x	McPeck	7-2
4	Booked,122	R Santana, Jr	1-1-2	Asmussen	7-5
5	Uncle Kef,122	I Ortiz, Jr	5-1-x	Rice	12-1
6	Flight Command,122	F Prat	1-x-x	Rodriguez	9-5

7 1 1/8 miles; \$120,000; alw; 3up

Quiet 4th for **THUNDEROUSLY** at Monmouth. Debuted with a W under Alvarado previously. Mott gives the Gun Runner colt more ground. **SASSMASTER** stretched to 1 1/16 and won at 2nd asking at Churchill. Competitively spotted for Pletcher. **PAGODE** ran home 2nd last 4 starts; twice at this distance. May move forward 2nd off the layoff for Joe Sharp. Irad on the Kentucky shipper. **IRON DOME** Runnerup last pair. 3 for 6 at this longer distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Sassmaster(L),121	F Prat	1-4-x	Pletcher	3-1
2	Hop Sing(L),126	K Carmouche	5-4-2	Summers	6-1
3	Thunderously(L),121	J Alvarado	4-1-x	Mott	6-1
4	Universe(M),121	J Ortiz	4-4-7	McPeck	8-1
5	Statesman(L),126	E Zayas	2-5-3	McGaughy III	10-1
6	Expect the Best(L),126	R Santana, Jr	2-2-2	Moquett	15-1
7	Pagode(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	2-2-2	Sharp	5-1
8	Iron Dome(L),126	L Saez	2-2-6	Asmussen	7-2
9	Minorinconvenience(M),121	J Rodriguez	6-3-10	Green	20-1
10	C McGriff(L),121	J Lezcano	1-2-6	Medina	20-1

8 5 1/2 fur(T); \$120,000; alw; 3up(f)

Look for **SILSBEE** to get back to business, 2nd off the shelf for Weaver. Ran well for 2nd here in June. Won twice prior to the break. **LADY JANCIS** graduated (2nd start) at Churchill. Asmussen has the fast filly well spotted. **DUBOFF** won at Tampa in January. Moves higher off the 7 month breather. **BIG EARN** was 3rd in a 100k at Laurel. 3 for 6 at this shorter distance. Saez up.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Big Earn(L),126	L Saez	3-1-2	Trombetta	6-1
2	Lady Jancis(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	1-4-x	Asmussen	3-1
3	Only for Now(L),122	F Prat	5-1-x	Clement	5-1
4	Just Add Water(L),126	D Davis	4-3-1	Summers	15-1
5	Silsbee(L),126	E Zayas	2-1-1	Weaver	5-2
6	Heat Missile(AUS)(L),126	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Casse	12-1
7	Army Gal(L),126	R Santana, Jr	3-4-4	Rice	15-1
8	Paula's a Star(L),126	J Alvarado	5-4-2	Morley	8-1
9	Duboff(L),126	C Elliott	1-7-3	Sacco	12-1
10	Queen Juno(L),122	K Carmouche	1-4-7	Sharp	20-1
11	One More Guitar(L),122	K Davis	6-6-1	Proctor	12-1
12	One Last Knock(L),126	K Carmouche	3-1-2	Brion	8-1
13	Ratu Jawa(L),126	S Bridgmohan	4-5-4	Seyler	15-1
14	Battis Grove(L),122	J Ortiz	3-1-2	Walden	6-1
15	Golden Irish(L),126	Rider TBA	7-6-4	LaRose	12-1
16	Beach Heist(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	2-2-3	Walden	3-1

9 1 1/16 miles(T); \$225,000; Lake George; 3YO(f)

Brad Cox takes **AMBERGLEN** to a Grade 3 off an easy 5 length allowance win at Churchill. 2 for 3 on turf. The one to catch in the Lake George. **HIDDEN ROSE** MTO. Clear 2nd with optional claimers last out. **TIME TO DREAM** Competitive. Close 3rd in a Grade 2 then a midpack 5th in the Grade 1 Belmont Oaks. Contender. **DEEP LEARNING** won the Chelsey Flower at this distance in November. Hasn't ran since. We will wait.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Honfleur,120	J Ortiz	5-1-2	C Brown	10-1

2	Star Actress,120	J Alvarado	5-2-5	Mott	15-1
3	Candy Moonshine,120	J Rodriguez	4-3-1	Gorham	15-1
4	Time to Dream,120	E Zayas	5-3-7	Pletcher	5-1
5	Ultimate Love,120	R Santana, Jr	9-2-5	Trombetta	10-1
6	Amberglenn(IRE),120	I Ortiz, Jr	1-2-4	Cox	5-2
7	Code,120	D Davis	3-2-1	Pletcher	15-1
8	Deep Learning,120	F Prat	1-2-5	C Brown	7-2
9	Lion Lake(IRE),124	L Saez	2-3-3	Walsh	3-1
10	Answered Prayers,124	J Alvarado	2-2-1	Mott	3-1
11	Hidden Rose,124	Rider TBA	2-1-7	Clement	7-2

10 1 1/8 miles; \$500,000; Jim Dandy; 3YO

Field of five in the Jim Dandy. **COMMANDMENT** was 7th in the Kentucky Derby, then 2nd in the Belmont Stakes. Both won by Golden Tempo who is not here today. **RENEGADE** was 2nd in the Derby, then 3rd in the Belmont. Commandment won the Florida Derby, this distance under Prat. Renegade won the Arkansas Derby at this distance. **SILENT TACTIC** was 2nd behind Renegade in the Arkansas. Hasn't run since. 2 for 6; never worse than 2nd. Rider change to Saez. **CHIPP HONCHO** was 3rd in the Preakness. Won the Ohio Derby next out. **ASKED AND ANSWERED** is a maiden and will be priced accordingly.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Chip Honcho,122	J Ortiz	1-3-5	Asmussen	3-1
2	Asked and Answered,120	J Rodriguez	7-4-2	Arriaga	30-1
3	Renegade,124	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-1	Pletcher	7-5
4	Silent Tactic,122	L Saez	2-2-1	Casse	6-1
5	Commandment,124	F Prat	2-7-1	Cox	6-5

11 5 1/2 fur(T); \$105,000; alw; 3up

DAKOTA COUNTRY brings a modest 2 race winning streak from Santa Anita. Moves higher; Irad on the stretch runner. **B PROVOCATEUR** MTO. 2nd with similar here last month. **ILLMATIC** is 0 for 2 on turf but a thiclose 2nd in a NYB stallion stake. Clement gets Prat to seal the deal. **JOKER ON FIRE** beat by a length twice at the Spa this summer. **RHYTON** was 2nd with comparable company last out.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Ilmatic(L),122	F Prat	2-3-2	Clement	9-2
2	Joker On Fire(L),126	J Lezcano	2-5-2	Levine	5-1
3	Mozambique(L),126	E Zayas	3-5-5	Rodriguez	10-1
4	Van Vollenhoven(L),126	D Davis	11-2-6	Duggan	10-1
5	Blamicker(L),126	K Carmouche	1-1-2	Englehart	12-1
6	King Puck(L),126	J Ortiz	7-10-7	Maker	8-1
7	Rhyton(L),126	R Santana, Jr	2-9-1	Clement	8-1
8	Diliello(L),122	J Alvarado	8-7-1	Morley	15-1
9	Dakota Country(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	1-1-9	Hess	8-5
10	Leo's Reward(L),126	D Davis	5-8-3	Donk	8-1
11	B Provocateur(L),122	Rider TBA	2-6-4	Rodriguez	4-1

12 1 1/16 miles(T); \$115,000; mdn; 3up(f)

HEDGE BOOK was a troubled 5th at Churchill. Prat gets her home for Brown in the nightcap. **JADORLINIJA** MTO. **NONCONSECUTIVETRMS** Runnerup last pair; latest off the layoff. Walsh gets J Ortiz to put her over the top. **MUSIC BOX** Narrowly defeated all 3 starts. **AMICABLE FARCE** was 5th, then 2nd this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Prime Connection(L),121	J Lezcano	5-5-9	Rice	15-1
2	Music Box(L),121	J Rodriguez	2-2-2	Trombetta	8-1
3	Amicable Farce(L),121	D Davis	2-5-x	C Brown	5-1
4	Timeless Melody(L),121	R Santana, Jr	4-x-x	Antonacci	10-1
5	Nonconsecutivetrms(M),121	J Ortiz	2-2-7	Walsh	5-2
6	Fancy n' Flight(M),121	I Ortiz, Jr	2-10-x	Lee	4-1
7	Hedge Book(L),121	F Prat	5-7-2	C Brown	3-1
8	Lose the Blues(M),121	L Saez	x-x-x	Pletcher	15-1
9	Serenique(M),121	E Zayas	x-x-x	James Bond	20-1
10	Jadorlinija(L),121	R Santana, Jr	4-3-4	Clement	2-1
11	Red Beach(L),121	E Zayas	10-x-x	James Bond	15-1

Saratoga Results

FIRST-5½ fur; \$115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO
1 Wd Islnd (OrtizJr.) 2.94 2.10
3 Jackpot Jackie (Prat) 2.14
Scr: The Devil in Me, River of Deceit, Without Hesitation
● \$1 Exacta (1-3) \$2.21

Exacta picked by Vic C

SECOND-5½ fur; \$50,000; md cl(\$35.0); 2YOF
1 Yu Ar My Sz Q (Sz) 5.22 2.90 2.38
8 Risky Mission (Franco) 4.68 2.98
6 Beltanduspensders (OrtizJr.) 2.72
Scr: You Can Bank On Me, Saysomethingnice
● \$1 Daily Double (1-1) \$7.15 ● \$1 Exacta (1-8) \$13.83 ● \$1 Quinella (1-8) \$8.68 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-8-6-4) \$11.81 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-8-6) \$19.57

THIRD-6 fur; \$65,000; alw; 4up (f&m)

1 Mursal (Davis) 7.68 4.06 3.00
7 Sweet Note (Ortiz) 4.66 3.90
1 Edistrudis (Zayas) 5.38
Scr: Always Angels
● \$1 Pick 3 (1-1-2) \$19.49 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-2) \$11.71 ● \$1 Exacta (2-7) \$23.46 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-7-1-4) \$51.86 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-7-1) \$83.86

FOURTH-1 mile 1 fur; \$60,000; c1(\$45.0); 3up
1 Frst Cl Bob (Gffin) 10.46 4.04 3.04
7 Swaging (Rodriguez) 8.52 4.78
5 Who's Your Zaddy (SantanJr.) 3.50
Scr: Noble Heritage
● \$1 Pick 3 (1-2-1) \$16.73 ● \$1 Daily Double (2-1) \$4.91 ● \$1 Exacta (1-7) \$17.12 ● \$1 Quinella (1-7) \$12.02 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-7-5-4) \$14.17 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-7-5) \$39.57

Winner picked by Vic C (Lock)

FIFTH-1 mile; \$62,000; mdn c1m(\$55.0); 3up
4 Urgency (Ortiz) 10.46 4.04 3.04
14 Disparate Image (Prat) 2.38 2.10
12 Meanstepper (Saez) 3.96
Scr: Vivaldi, Visible, Holy Dancer, Stream It, Dynadee, Melody Man, Ghost Driver
● \$1 Pick 3 (2-1-4) \$41.28 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (1/2/9-2-1/8-4) \$71.44 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (1/2/4/7-1/2/9-2-1/8-4) \$119.75 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-4) \$15.48 ● \$1 Exacta (4-14) \$13.52 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (4-14-12-7) \$25.27 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (4-14-12) \$28.78

Double picked by Vic C

SIXTH-6 fur; \$115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO
8 Fullcup (Alvarado) 26.20 9.76 6.36
9 McMoon (Zayas) 4.10 3.26
1. Freedom Charge (Ortiz) 3.60
Scr: J Buck, Mindfield, Neptuneroad Richie
● \$1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-4-7) \$11.54 ● \$1 Pick 3 (1-4-8) \$178.66 ● \$1 Daily Double (4-8) \$85.03 ● \$1 Exacta (8-9) \$41.05 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (8-9-1-5) \$157.39 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (8-9-1) \$1

Knicks' addition of Drummond looks like a ... SLAM DUNK

By ANDREW CRANE

Jere Quinn could sense it last weekend, when the St. Thomas More School head coach went to Yale as two of his grandsons participated in Andre Drummond's basketball camp. Drummond, his former player and a 14-year NBA veteran who joined the Knicks earlier this month as their backup center, always tends to be a positive person, Quinn said, but he seemed "totally excited" at the chance awaiting him next season. Drummond's family members attending shared that feeling, too, Quinn said.

His one-year, \$3.9 million deal with the Knicks to replace Mitchell Robinson doubles as a bit of a homecoming, with the Mount Vernon native — who moved to Middletown, Conn., when he was 7 years old — getting a chance to carve out a role for the defending champions. He'll play just hours away from St. Thomas More, hours away from where he spent his lone collegiate season for Jim Calhoun's UConn program and a short trip away from the Westchester County city where he spent the earliest years of his life. Drummond, 32, will get a chance to add to his legacy as someone who Quinn described as "possibly the best rebounder in the world," too, by

serving as a veteran presence on the bench and possibly the lone newcomer to the Knicks' rotation.

"The game can do so many things for you," Calhoun, the 84-year-old longtime Huskies coach who retired from the program in 2012, told The Post, "but the one thing it didn't do with him: It never spoiled him. And I think he becomes a great addition to the Knicks, who don't need any disruption."

"They got it going, and obviously, they have a great leader and the coaching has obviously been very good. He's a nice piece basketball-wise. He's also a really nice piece teammate-wise, which doesn't disrupt your team."

The Knicks needed someone to replace Robinson, who became the piece they couldn't afford after owner Jim Dolan's mandate to avoid spending into the second apron. Robinson, one of the best rim protectors and offensive rebounders in the league when healthy, left for the Celtics. And Drummond, one of the best rebounders in NBA history, arrived with a specific role and a chance at his first title waiting.

Drummond led the NBA in rebounds per game four times earlier in his career, including a final instance during the 2019-20 campaign. His 16.28 rebounds

per 36 minutes played ranks third in NBA history behind only Wilt Chamberlain (18.00) and Bill Russell (19.11), according to Basketball-Reference. If he finds a way to collect 389 rebounds this season, the two-time All-Star will move into 25th place in league history for total rebounds, too.

Quinn joked that when Drummond arrived at St. Thomas More, he could shoot as many 3-pointers as he wanted as long as he grabbed 25 rebounds per game. When he got to UConn for the 2011-12 season, Drummond, at 6-foot-10, impressed Calhoun with his rebounding timing en route to finishing with 10 double-doubles that season. If Drummond "had the ball," Calhoun said, "it was his."

"He has a nose for the ball," Quinn said of Drummond's rebounding. "He has a knack for it. ... It's such a needed skill on every team because as everybody puts teams together, everybody still wants to find that one guy who can do that. And, as I said, he does it better than most."

His role has continued to evolve over the years. For the last two seasons, Drummond served as Joel Embiid's backup with the 76ers, a role that became critical when Embiid missed extended stretches due to injuries both

seasons. And under head coach Mike Brown, Drummond will be tasked with ensuring there's not a drop-off without Robinson.

There's always the chance that the Knicks add another backup center before the season starts and Drummond faces some competition, as they already extended an offer sheet to the Mavericks' Moussa Cisse before Dallas matched it. For now, though, Drummond will directly follow Towns on the depth chart.

"He adjusts and he adapts," Quinn said, "and he's a guy who's gonna find his way to be on a team for many, many years to come — because he understands that there are people in the NBA that if you do certain roles, you can have a really, really long career."

And for at least one season, that has allowed Drummond to find his way back to New York City for the first time since a 2021-22 stint with the Nets, closer to where his basketball career was shaped in Connecticut and into a role where — with his presence on the bench — he could become a critical piece to the Knicks' quest to repeat.

"I think he's a perfect fit," Calhoun said.

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Nets commit to Wagner as backup center

By BRIAN LEWIS

After holding off on signing Moe Wagner for nearly a month, the Nets finally officially added the veteran big man Friday.

Brooklyn not only committed the lion's share of its remaining cap space to Wagner, but signaled the end of any pursuit of high-priced free agents. The move won't prevent them from extending Michael Porter Jr., but does significantly cut into how much of a raise they could theoretically give their leading scorer.

Upon trading away Nic Claxton to upgrade to two-time All-NBA forward Julius Randle, the Nets created a hole at center. Day'Ron Sharpe steps in as

the presumptive starter, but after watching centers strike it big with hefty contracts — from Walker Kessler to Mitchell Robinson — Brooklyn opted for the bargain route.

The Nets had agreed to a two-year, \$19 million deal with Wagner, but took weeks to formalize it. It's no coincidence that the contract neatly fit into the Room Mid-Level Exception, so Brooklyn could have exhausted the rest of its \$14 million in cap space on either free agents or trades, then fit Wagner into the MLE.

How general manager Sean Marks opted to add Wagner, 29, was always going to be an indicator of the summer plans. And Friday he decided to sign him into cap space.

The 6-foot-11, 245-pounder is

expected to back up Sharpe, and is now the only other pure center on the roster. He's averaged nine points and 3.9 rebounds in 16.2 minutes in 399 career games over eight seasons, albeit providing little rim protection.

The signing leaves the Nets' roster with the full 15 standard contracts and two of three allowable two-way spots. Barring a trade, the roster is largely complete.

Brooklyn now has \$4.9 million in cap room, sources told The Post, while still holding the \$9.4 million Room MLE. Marks can theoretically carry both into the upcoming season.

But will he?

While adding Wagner with cap space eliminates the possibility of signing a high-priced

free agent, there frankly aren't many on the board — and even fewer that really make sense for a Brooklyn team that went just 20-62 last season and — despite its desire to be more competitive — is still far from being ready to contend for a title, or even a playoff berth.

The Nets could use their remaining cap space to renegotiate and extend Porter.

The forward is on a \$40.8 million expiring contract. With Porter coming off a career season last year, Brooklyn could move him for significant assets. But would they do that over the summer, or could Marks extract more at the trade deadline?

Porter is eligible for a four-year, \$234 million extension. Clearly he won't get that much

from the Nets, but how much might he get?

Brooklyn could actually use the rest of its aforementioned cap space to bump Porter's 2026-27 salary up to \$45.7 million, and also tack on up to four additional seasons. They could then cut Porter's salary from the 2027-28 start of that extension — up to a 40 percent reduction — to get him on a team-friendly deal.

"I'm sure we'll have those discussions. We've got time. There's no immediate hurry right now with Mike," Marks said two weeks ago.

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DRUM' BEAT: Jere Quinn, Andre Drummond's coach at St. Thomas More, and Jim Calhoun, his coach for one season at UConn, believe Drummond is just what the Knicks need — a dedicated teammate who focuses more on rebounding than scoring.

Jason Szenes

PHOENIX — The Kelsey Plum sweepstakes are heating up.

But the question on everyone's mind is whether the Sparks will actually succeed in moving Plum before Sunday's 3 p.m. trade deadline.

The Sparks dealt a major haul — including the 2025 No. 2 pick that became Dominique Malonga — to acquire Plum ahead of the 2025 season.

Plum signed a one-year deal, just shy of \$1 million, this off-season. But Plum reportedly doesn't intend to stay in Los Angeles beyond this season.

The Sparks should read the writing on the wall and accept reality. They wanted to be a playoff team but are 10-17 and five games out of the final playoff spot.

The whole scenario is setting up for the Sparks to be sellers at the deadline.

Moving Plum, though, won't be easy. Teams have to weigh the price of potentially adding a two-time WNBA champion as a two-to-three-month rental since there's no guarantee she'd re-sign with a team.

Also, the league's hard salary cap and higher salaries hinder what teams can realistically do.

Those reasons explain why it'll be difficult for the Liberty to address some of the roster concerns by Sunday.

That said, should the star-driven Liberty inquire about Plum?

General manager Jonathan Kolb should make the call. That's part of doing one's due diligence.

Plum is one of the league's best scorers and a five-time All-Star. She knows the sacrifice it takes to win in this league.

But leave it at that.

Adding Plum won't remedy the Liberty's biggest issue: defense.

If anything, trading for Cameron Brink would make more sense for New York than Plum.

New York is in the market for perimeter defenders and rim protectors, not more offense, especially when one could argue Sabrina Ionescu isn't taking enough shots already.

Some of the Liberty's defensive issues could be explained by who they're missing.

They've been without Satou Sabally since she suffered a concussion the last time the Liberty played in Las Vegas on June 23. New York also misses Leonie Fiebich, who's been out with a left foot injury since July 3.

Sabally and Fiebich are two of the team's best and most versatile perimeter defenders.

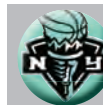
But is this seriously the best



WE'LL PASS: The Libs should at least make a call on Kelsey Plum (left), but she won't help their biggest weakness: defense. Heather Khalifa

Due diligence on Plum is all for Liberty.

**Saturday
LIBERTY AT
MERCURY**



3 p.m.
ABC



the Liberty can do without them?

New York opponents are averaging 11.1 made 3-pointers and shooting 42.6 percent from behind the arc this month. Both marks are league highs for July.

New York has conceded at least 90 points in seven consecutive games. Teams have eclipsed 100 points three times during that stretch, including in their past two games.

New York has gone 4-5 this month. In the three wins prece-

ding Thursday, the Liberty outscored their opponents rather than outworking them.

On Tuesday, the Liberty surrendered 109 points to the Sparks, who were without Plum.

The Aces dropped 104 points on New York on Thursday, knocking down 13 shots from behind the arc and scoring 34 points in the paint.

"We have to do a better job with our shot challenges," coach Chris DeMarco said. "And probably just pursue to try to get connected and not stress our bigs out. You can't take away the rim, paint and the 3-point line. So I think overall, we got to keep taking the right steps forward and again, it's more about not the 3 going up, but what happens before that, and we just need to be attached

a little bit more and continue to fight."

There is a belief within the organization that the Liberty have what they need to fulfill their championship aspirations. If New York gets healthy, the defense should improve.

Also, adding a new player could further complicate things as the Liberty try to establish their identity in DeMarco's first season.

But the Liberty can't just bank on Fiebich and Sabally fixing their problems. And Stewart acknowledged there are changes the Liberty can do now to improve the team's defense, such as each player having higher pick-up points.

"Our defense is changing scheme to scheme based on the games, so I think that we're continuing to build to a place of comfort of knowing what our foundation is, knowing where we're sending it to," Stewart said. "But I believe that we're continuing to grow. I didn't know we were giving up the most 3s but we're just gonna try to make tough contested shots."

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Madeline Kenney



HIS WAY GOES: Aaron Glenn had a bumpy rookie season as Jets head coach, partly because he delegated too much authority to his coordinators. That won't be the case this season. Bill Kostroun



CHARGING UP

Glenn's already learned from rocky 1st year as Jets coach



If Aaron Glenn is going to go down — if he's going to be ground up and spit out like most men who've dared to move their personal belongings into the Jets head coaching office — he's going to do it on his terms.

He's going to do it with both of his hands on the steering wheel until the bitter end — whenever (and if) that time comes.

Glenn, in his rookie year as the Jets head coach in 2025, never looked like he was in complete enough control of the operation.

If we take out the calamitous clock mismanagement gaffe that cost the Jets that game in Denver, I believe Glenn's most glaring error last season was ceding too much responsibility to his coordinators, neither of whom was competent enough to handle their respective jobs.

His defensive coordinator, Steve Wilks (a nice man), has not been a winning coach at any level in years of coaching.

His offensive coordinator, Tanner Engstrand, was a first-timer at the post and the product looked that way.

I don't blame Glenn for this. He came into the job believing he needed to be the CEO of the team, and that's fine ... if you have a strong enough staff around you. Which he didn't.

Wilks was eventually fired in-season, but it was too late.

Head coaches can often become too loyal to their assistants. I often wonder if former Giants head coach Brian Daboll hadn't been so loyal to his defensive coordinator, Shane Bowen (also a very nice man), he might still be coaching the Giants.

It's no accident that Glenn has two new coordinators this year — Frank Reich on offense and Brian Duker on defense. Reich is an accomplished offensive coach, and Duker worked with Glenn in Detroit.

Most importantly, Glenn, who got this job in the first place based largely on his work as the defensive coordinator in Detroit, has taken the Jets defense into his own hands. He'll be installing the defense, with help from Duker, and calling the plays.

Veteran safety Minkah Fitzpatrick, an offseason acquisition in his first year as a Jet, said he believes Glenn is "applying the lessons from last year to this year."

"He's obviously taken more control of the defense this year than he did last year," Fitzpatrick said. "He's a guy who played the game at a high level for a really long time, which I appreciate as a player. He's extremely passionate, definitely loves what he does, and definitely wants to give his best — not just for his own name, but for the team."

Before Robert Saleh became the Jets head coach, he was known very much for his overt passion on the sidelines as the 49ers defensive coordinator.

I believe Saleh, in an effort to fit into the mold of head coach and team CEO, hurt himself by curbing that outward passion as he went out of his way to be too even-keeled as a head coach. That took away one of his superpowers — his passion.

Glenn said this offseason his "superpower" is his play calling on defense. So, too, is his passion.

This Jets team will be getting a full double dose of both. And that's a good thing.

"Even if he wasn't the head coach, I would follow him into battle any time, just because of the character and type of person he is," linebacker Demario Davis, an offseason acquisition, said. "Leadership isn't based on title, it's based on relationship. He's a phenomenal leader."

Davis, who was on the Saints roster for three of the years Glenn coached defensive backs in New Orleans, said Glenn is "doing a tremendous job setting the culture and direction for this team."

"There are 90 men in that locker room who will run through a wall for him. He has a keen vision on what's expected, what the standard is. He's laid

that out, and I'm looking forward to putting in the work to follow his lead."

Quarterback Geno Smith praised Glenn for doing "a great job laying out the blueprint for this team and where he wants to take us," adding, "It's our job to bring that into manifestation."

Running back Breece Hall offered a pragmatic theory about Glenn's first year as a head coach.

"I think everybody who comes to New York — even if he's played here before [which Glenn did as a former Jets draft pick] — bites off a little more than he can chew at first," Hall said. "You don't realize it going in. Being in his first year, he dealt with the highs of the highs and the lows of the lows, and I think now he knows what to expect."

"He knows what he wants to see out of the organization, the players, the coaches," Hall went on. "He's very to the point, very direct. It's been good for us to see — 'OK, this is the standard, this is how we police the locker room, the weight room, practice, everything.' It's definitely been better for us."

The Jets, and Glenn, hope that translates into enough wins to warrant him coaching a third season with the Jets — and hopefully many more than that.

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CBS sits Romo, taps Watt as fill-in

By ERICH RICHTER

Tony Romo will be sitting out the next couple of plays.

The former QB turned CBS analyst is "on leave" from the network "until further notice," the network said in a statement Friday.

Romo, 46, was arrested last week in Wisconsin on suspicion of operating while under the influence.

Former NFL star JJ. Watt will fill Romo's role on the network's No. 1 team with Jim Nantz and Tracy Wolfson, according to reports.

CBS' first regular-season broadcast comes Sept. 13.

Romo, who was named CBS' top NFL analyst role after retiring from playing in 2017, was returning from the Wisconsin Amateur Championship golf tournament — in which he finished 35 over par and won \$60 — when he was pulled over while traveling south on Interstate 43.

A second citation viewed by The Post says Romo "drove" in the marked right distress lane to pass vehicles in lanes 1 and 2 during rush hour traffic before he "cut across the marked gore" to get to where he wanted to go.

The disheveled ex-Cowboys QB told officers he had "zero" drinks and was on his way to visit "grandma and grandpa."

Seemingly surprised at being pulled over, Romo said he planned to call his attorney when instructed to step out of his car for a sobriety test and began to film the interaction on his phone.

"Because I'm coming from a golf course you think I'm drunk?" he asked during his back-and-forth with officers before being cuffed and placed in the back of a cruiser.

One officer claimed Romo had an "open bottle of an alcoholic beverage" located on the passenger side of his black Jeep, according to a third citation viewed by The Post, performed poorly on field sobriety tests, and was later cited for "refuse to take test for intoxication after arrest."

"I've heard from all the lawyers don't ever do that," he told officers. "So, we're not going to do that."

A spokesperson for the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office told The Post this week that because of the allegations against Romo, the case is "a traffic violation and not a criminal charge in Wisconsin."

He is scheduled for a court hearing Sept. 21, but is not required to attend. He faces a total of \$1,568.50 in fines.

♌

LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

Partners and loved ones have been rather demanding of late but now the effects of the full moon have faded it should be easier to find common ground. One area where you should be working closer together is on social issues you feel strongly about.

♍

VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

You seem to believe you have powerful enemies, and it may be true, but try not to be too defensive over the next 48 hours. If you give everyone you meet the impression that you don't trust them you may end up with no friends at all!

♎

LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You won't take kindly to criticism this weekend but if you are smart you will listen to what friends and work colleagues have to say. It could be they can see errors that you are too close too and therefore have managed to overlook.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT
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♏

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

It may seem as if a rival has got the upper hand, and maybe they have, but you possess something they do not - a determination to keep fighting until the very end. At some stage this weekend they will lose heart and admit defeat.

♐

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

If you rush around trying to get fifty things done at once this weekend you could end up getting nothing done at all. Focus on one major task at a time and don't move on to the next one until it is finished. Less means more!

♑

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

The more a friend or workmate tries to convince you that their latest big idea is a surefire

money-spinner the more you should look into it before agreeing to get involved. You don't want your hard-earned cash spinning away from you!

♒

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You can complain about someone's reckless behavior until you are blue in the face but it won't make any difference. They are on a course they have no intention of changing and all you can do is stay out of their way - and help pick up the pieces.

♓

PISCES
(Feb. 20-March 20)

Someone who enjoys being controversial will wind you up a bit this weekend, but if you are smart you will pretend that their words and actions mean nothing to you. The best way to deal with stupidity is to refuse to encourage it.

♈

ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

A domestic issue may be causing you a bit of trouble but it is not nearly as bad as you think it is, so calm down and try to be positive. The planets suggest that the less attention you pay to it the quicker the situation will resolve itself.

♉

TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

You need to be careful with money now because Uranus in the financial area of your chart could twist your head and make you believe you are richer than you think you are. Make essential purchases only your mantra for the weekend.

♊

GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

Mars and Uranus in your sign make you eager to get moving and make things happen but

other influences warn it might be wise not to take risks. Also, make sure you check what other people tell you, because they may be telling lies.

♋

CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

Even the most half-hearted of efforts will yield amazing results this weekend, so think what a full-blooded commitment to excellence might accomplish. Others may say you think too much of your own abilities but most likely you don't think enough of them.

BIRTHDAY SATURDAY

Borrow ideas from other people over the coming year but give them added value. Your birthday chart suggests your best creative work will come when you take general concepts and rework them so the outcomes meet your own specific needs.

Post Weather Report

Saturday



Today: Sun through high clouds and humid. High 82 to 88.

Tonight: Humid with increasing clouds. Low 69 to 75.

Monday



T-storms. High 78 to 84.

Evening



Rain, a t-storm. Low 66 to 72.

Sunday



Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, breezy and humid. High 79 to 85.

Tomorrow night: Cloudy, a few showers; humid. Low 69 to 75.

Tuesday



A shower; humid. High 79 to 85.

Evening



A stray t-storm. Low 69 to 75.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

Temperature

High: 85, Low: 67, Mean: 76

Departure from Normal

Yesterday: -2 degrees

Precipitation

Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 4.86", Year: 22.68", Normal year to date: 28.31"

Cooling Degree days yesterday.....11

Total for the month (normal).....360 (393)

Total since Jan. 1 (normal).....760 (701)

Last year to date.....786

Heat Index (at noon yest.).....84

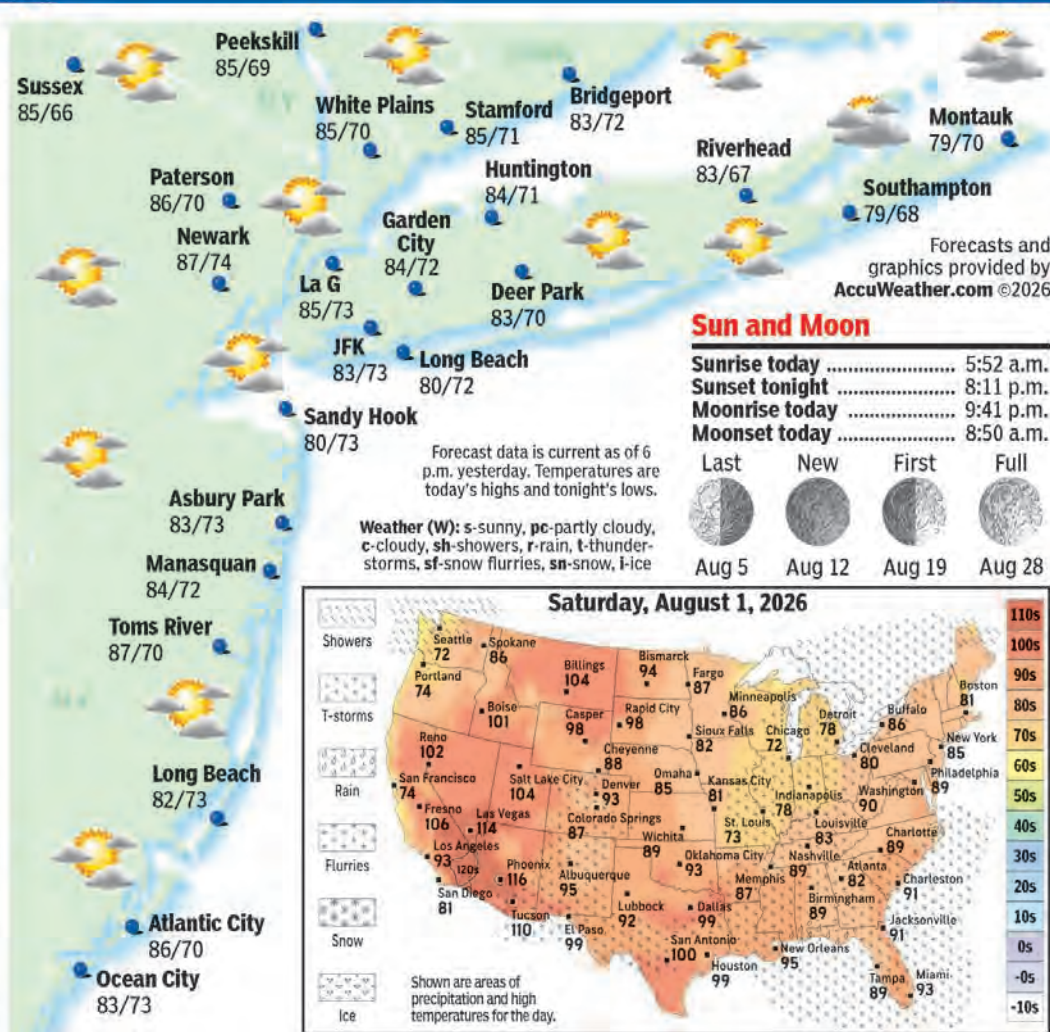
UV index (for Sat.).....8 (Very High)

Humidity (at noon).....56%

AIR QUALITY

Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Weeds, Grasses

AQI rating: (for Sat.).....Moderate



New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
High Tide for				
Coney Island	10:14a	10:21p	10:53a	11:02p
Fire Island	10:17a	10:36p	11:02a	11:18p
Hempstead	1:24a	1:49p	2:03a	2:27p
Huntington	1:33a	1:58p	2:13a	2:37p
Jones Inlet	9:58a	10:05p	10:37a	10:46p
Montauk Point	11:53a	11:52p	12:34p	---
Port Washington	1:22a	1:47p	2:01a	2:25p
Sandy Hook	10:18a	10:25p	10:57a	11:06p

Regional cities	TODAY		TOMORROW	
Albany	84/70/pc		83/70/t	
Danbury	85/69/pc		81/73/c	
Glens Falls	83/65/pc		80/68/t	
Gr Barrington	85/65/pc		80/68/t	
Kingston	87/68/pc		81/70/t	
Liberty	82/63/pc		75/66/t	
Monticello	83/65/pc		77/67/t	
Newburgh	86/70/pc		83/70/t	
Poughkeepsie	85/68/pc		85/70/t	
Saratoga Springs	85/67/pc		79/70/t	
Stroudsburg	86/65/pc		81/68/t	
Torrington	85/67/pc		83/69/c	
Syracuse	87/72/t		79/69/r	

World cities	TODAY		TOMORROW	
Athens	89/73/s		91/74/s	
Baghdad	119/96/s		117/97/s	
Beijing	95/80/t		91/78/t	
Berlin	75/54/pc		79/58/pc	
Cairo	101/78/pc		102/78/pc	
Dublin	70/50/pc		66/56/c	
Geneva	89/65/t		92/64/s	
Hong Kong	83/78/t		84/79/sh	
Jerusalem	92/74/s		92/73/s	
Kabul	90/68/pc		92/69/pc	
London	79/57/s		83/63/pc	
Madrid	101/72/pc		98/71/s	
Mexico City	79/56/r		80/57/r	
Montreal	83/70/t		78/69/r	
Moscow	82/63/pc		87/62/sh	
Paris	84/63/c		90/69/s	
Rio de Janeiro	77/65/s		79/68/s	
Rome	94/74/s		92/74/s	
Sydney	63/46/pc		68/50/s	
Tokyo	97/83/pc		96/75/sh	

FLIPPING OUT

Skattebo vows to put TD celebration to rest — for now

STAY GROUNDED: Giants running back Cam Skattebo said he likely will do away with the backflips he used to celebrate touchdowns after recovering from offseason surgery, but he still attempted one at Fanatics Fest and ended up falling (inset).

Getty Images; X.com @Wyattt World



By PAUL SCHWARTZ

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WVa. — Joe Schoen was on vacation, having dinner when, he said, “it was brought to my attention.”

As the general manager of the Giants, everything that goes on with the team runs through Schoen, one way or another. And when something away from the field takes place that he needs to know about, word gets to him as quickly as possible.

So, what went down that was so important that Schoen needed to be apprised of the situation while he was relaxing and enjoying himself with his family and friends before the start and grind of training camp?

It was something about Cam Skattebo.

The rambunctious running back a few weeks ago did a backflip at the Fanatics Fest event. That Skattebo performed this maneuver is old news, considering he flips away whenever he scores a touchdown. This time, though, a judge scoring the action would have given Skattebo a failing grade. He stumbled on the landing and later blamed a bouncy stage floor for missing his mark.

What is the big deal about this?

Skattebo is coming off a nasty right ankle dislocation and open tibia fracture that ended his rookie season after only eight games. His rehab proceeded just fine but there could certainly be reason to object to seeing him needlessly test and possibly endanger the ankle merely two weeks before camp.

Schoen's initial reaction was to fire off a quick text to confirm Skattebo was fine.

“The video shows a little bit about how good his rehab's been, that he's able to not land it and still be okay,” Schoen said, before adding, “but he knows I'd rather him not do that, especially this close to camp.”

Head coach John Harbaugh spoke with Skattebo about this and it certainly sounds as if the message was received.

“Yeah, I mean, obviously I do some dumb things here and there, but I learn from it,” Skattebo said Friday after training camp practice No. 3 at the Sports Performance Center at The Greenbrier resort. “My coach talked to me, told me how he felt, and I learned from it.

ny TRAINING DAY

REACH OUT

Rookie OLB **Arvell Reese** showed that his great size and arm length can be big factors. A pass from **Jaxson Dart** should have been completed to **Odell Beckham Jr.** ... until the 6-foot-4 Reese put up his left arm and knocked the ball away.

NOW, NOW BOYS

Dart's pass to the right sideline for WR **Ryan Miller** looked like a leaping completion until CB **Korie Black** raced over for the pass breakup. Black and other defensive players celebrated over the fallen Miller, which seemed to upset TE **Isaiah Likely**.

CAUGHT MY EYE

No. 13 leaped into the air to snare a deep ball over the middle from **Jameis Winston**. In years past, that would have been Beckham. Nowadays it is **Jalin Hyatt**, who needs to impress this summer to stick around on the roster.

INJURY REPORT

WR **Malik Nabers** did not participate in practice, but there's no reason for alarm. After two strong days working individual drills coming off his ACL surgery, the plan was for him to rest Day 3. ... TE **Tanner Conner** left practice early.

— Paul Schwartz

And will I go do that backflip again? Probably not. We live and we learn, and we move on.”

Skattebo, 24, has already evoked several impressions in his brief NFL existence. His hard-charging running style made him an instant favorite and his head butts with quarterback and best bud Jaxson Dart only added to his popularity. His production? That was ... fine. Nothing really special. In eight games, he rushed for 410 yards, averaging only 4.1 yards per attempt. He had seven total touchdowns (five rushing, two receiving). His impact game was a three-touchdown eruption in the Week 6 high point in a season of lowlights: a 34-17 victory over the archnemesis Eagles. Two weeks later, in the rematch in Philadelphia, Skattebo's rookie season came to a gruesome end.

“It was a long, hard road that I've took, but I told them I would be ready, Day 1, and look where we are,” Skattebo said.

Harbaugh joked that if Skattebo was going to do a backflip, the least he could do was stick the landing. That is where the jokes end. Harbaugh was serious when it came down to making sure his second-year player was cognizant that recklessness, anywhere, is unwise.

“Me and Harbs have had a couple talks,” Skattebo said. “Good ones, bad ones. Not bad, but rough conversations, being honest with each other. You can tell he cares, man. You can tell he wants the best for this team. He wants what everybody wants. We all want to win.”

Skattebo looks just fine running the ball in these no-padded practices. He said he is “99.9 percent back to full health” and that “the 100 percent is when I put shoulder pads on and I'm able to hit someone.” Anyone remotely familiar with his full-speed-ahead running style understands where Skattebo is coming from here.

There are no promises, however, that the backflip celebration will never be seen again.

“When game time comes around, we'll see what game time comes around,” he said. “But right now, we're focused on training camp, and we'll keep the backflips off the field for now.”

The Giants hope they have many opportunities to see how Skattebo this season reacts to getting into the end zone. After all, he did say “for now.”

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'0' struggles show reason for camp

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WVa. — Could the Giants win the game or, at the very least, force overtime?

That was the situational challenge of the two-minute drill presented to the offense to finish off practice on Day 3 of training camp at the Sports Performance Center at The Greenbrier resort. On the flip side, the defense was tasked with closing the game out. The offense was trailing 20-17 with 44 seconds remaining, getting the ball on its own 39-yard line. Not much was needed to pick up the necessary yardage to at least get off a field goal attempt.

The starting offense could not get it done.

The first-down play was whistled to a halt, as Brian Burns and Kayvon Thibodeaux were determined to have "sacked" Jaxson Dart. On second down, Dart on a check-down under pressure from Burns hit Tyrone Tracy Jr. for an 8-yard pickup. The key third-down conversion never happened. There was some confusion, but it looked as if a penalty on the offense allowed the clock to expire.

Head coach John Harbaugh said, "I don't remember," when asked what went down to ruin the final play of that botched offensive series.

"It's like after a game, you know what I mean?" Harbaugh said. "It's hard to tell what happened. It was going fast. I probably just wanted them off the field. It's practice, move on to the next one."

Jameis Winston with the second-team offense was able to get in field goal range, and Ben Sauls connected to force overtime. The third-team offense directed by Brandon Allen did the same, with Sauls again hitting the field goal. That is where practice should have ended for the day, but Harbaugh wanted to see if his starting unit could make amends.

This series looked better, at first. On first down, Dart hit Calvin Austin III for a 27-yard pickup. Dart then spiked the ball to stop the clock. His second-down pass fell incomplete. On third down, already in field goal range, Dart looked over the middle, but his pass was picked off by an unlikely player, as defensive tackle Darius Alexander leaped to reach the ball and it stuck in his hands for a game-ending interception.

"Well, he's trying to get yards," Harbaugh said, referring to Dart.

"I think we were in field goal range, so he's got to make that decision, probably not to do that. Maybe he didn't see the defensive lineman.

There's a lot of nuances to that course. Obviously, it's not a circumstance you want to throw an interception."

Throwing one in training camp can be viewed as a learning experience.

"You put the quarterback in a tough spot out here," Harbaugh said. "Do you want him pushing the envelope? Or are you going to criticize him for throwing a pick in training camp? I mean, it's training camp. We're working through all these things, and you do want him pushing the envelope. You want him competing out there. That's part of what this is all for."

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WVa. — A year of growth and maturity and the arrival of General John Harbaugh have formed the perfect storm for Abdul Carter to rain terror on quarterbacks.

Lawrence Taylor won Defensive Player of the Year as a rookie in 1981 and again in 1986 and 1991. Michael Strahan won Defensive Player of the Year in 2001 when he set the single-season sack record.

Now, all these years later, here comes Abdul Carter.

When I asked Carter if he had goals for this season, he said: "I want to be Defensive Player of the Year, for sure."

I wouldn't bet against him.

"I know what I'm capable of, and I know if I put the work in and believe in myself, trusting myself, trusting my teammates, trusting my coaches," he said, "I can be whoever I want to be."

Do you think you could be DPOY?

"Absolutely," Carter said.

I said to Carter: You look unblockable out here. Are you unblockable?

"One-on-one, absolutely," Carter told The Post.

There will never be The Next Lawrence Taylor, but you could have put a No. 56 jersey on Abdul Carter on Thursday and old-timers might have had fond flashbacks.

He was an unblockable predator, and if he could confound LT Andrew Thomas every which way but loose, a double-digit breakout is nowhere near his ceiling.

After blowing past Thomas on one occasion, Carter walked away screaming, "You can't f---k with me!"

"It's not more personal with Andrew. It's just me being who I am," Carter said.

The Mouth That Roars. Against anyone and everyone.

"If I beat him, I'm gonna let him hear about it," Carter said.

With Brian Burns commanding attention on every snap following his career 16.5-sack season, Carter will be wreaking havoc as Robin to Burns' Batman, or vice versa.

Carter is a pass-rush savant and complete package getting better at his craft every day. DC Dennard Wilson will move him around because Carter is 245 pounds of hell on guards rushing the interior.

"It's gonna be fun," Carter said.

The growing pains are over.

"Obviously, I learned a lot last year," Carter said. "So, I'm never going to repeat the same mistakes. I've got my feet wet now, so keep the ball rolling."

Time for Abdul Carter to remind us why he was considered the best player in the 2025 draft.

Harbaugh will not tolerate missing a walk-through as Carter did as a rookie, or any indiscretions that

Carter rightly aims for top in 2nd season



AB' MACHINE: Abdul Carter intends to blow up opposing offensive lines this season.
Corey Sipkin

caused then-interim coach Mike Kafka to bench him at the start of two games, which caused Carter to take to X like this:

"Was not sleep, actually doing recovery. Nonetheless that's on ME!"

John Harbaugh is the right coach at the right time for Abdul Carter.

"I've learned a lot. Being with him ever since we started a couple months ago, seeing how he is as a person, how

he comes in, he's the same person every day," Carter said.

Carter came on strong at the end of last season to lead all rookies with 23 quarterback hits to go with his seven TFLs and four sacks. His 90.1 PFF pass-rush grade from Weeks 13-18 tied him with Myles Garrett for the second-highest mark in the NFL.

Carter ended the season on a dominating note and delivered a meaningful speech after the final Giants game:

"I can be better. We all can be better."

He also said: "Next year we have to come with a whole different mentality and make sure we're never in this position again."

Voicing his displeasure with Jaxson Dart on X for introducing the president over the offseason created a firestorm that needed to be smoothed over inside the locker room, but Harbaugh has made sure that Carter and Dart are football brothers obsessed with taking second-year leaps for the good of the New York Football Giants.

I tell him I think he is misunderstood by some Giants fans.

"Everybody's not meant to be understood," Carter told The Post. "You might not know, like, where everybody comes from or what they've gone through, but at the end of the day, you're gonna respect my work and respect what I do as a person and as a player."

He has a message for Giants fans: "I'm gonna give them everything I have. Expect me to play my heart out every play, every game, and whenever I'm out there, just expect the best from me."

Abdul Carter: Chasing quarterbacks. Chasing DPOY.

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THE Tarik Skubal Sweepstakes is underway.

Word unofficially came down midmorning Friday that Skubal is on the block with the news that Detroit had scratched a healthy Casey Mize from his start — a clear signal that the beleaguered Tigers, 51-58 entering play, are in full sell mode.

Teams that questioned whether the Tigers would throw in the towel while still within 4 ½ games of a playoff spot in the weakest American League in years understood the surprise scratch meant Detroit was open for business. And so, talks about MLB's best pitcher finally commenced.

The next question: Where will Skubal be going?

Here's our official odds board.

1. Dodgers. They have the best prospects to trade (nine in the top 100, via MLB). Plus, while most others may have greater need, the Dodgers prefer to keep Skubal from the Braves, Brewers, Phillies and Cubs to enhance their chances at a third straight World Series title. It's not just a block, though. Shohei Ohtani's knee injury has him off the mound indefinitely at a time when Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow also are out. *Odds: 7-5*

2. Rays. The amazing Rays would like to maintain the best record in the AL, and insiders suggest they are prepared to be aggressive. They have the prospects to do the deal, but it's still very unusual for a low-revenue team to bundle big-time prospects for a rental, even a great one. *Odds: 6-1*

3. Brewers. Paired with the 104 mph-throwing Jacob Misorowski, they'd have an all-time one-two pitching punch if they were to pull off a deal for Skubal. And they do have enough great prospects to match Los Angeles. But not since 2008, when they acquired CC Sabathia, whom they needed to finally get them into the playoffs, has the team from baseball's smallest market spent huge on a rental. *Odds: 11-1*

4. Braves. They'd love someone to pair with ace Chris Sale, but it would be quite a coup for Atlanta and its average prospect list to beat out some of these other prospect-laden teams. They like Mize, and when healthy, he'd make a nice



Jon Heyman



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'BAL IN PLAY

Open season as clubs chase deal for Skubal

A MAN IN DEMAND: Tigers ace Tarik Skubal's time in Detroit almost surely is in its final days, and his potential suitors around MLB range from the deep-pocketed Dodgers to small-market Milwaukee. Reuters

complement to the incredible Sale. So might José Soriano. *Odds: 15-1*

5. Phillies. Philly has many needs — a center fielder, bullpen help, a back-end starter and, at least at the moment, a better vibe. So spending their prospect capital on one rental would seem to be quite a gamble. However, you can never count out Phillies baseball president Dave Dombrowski. *Odds: 18-1*

6. Cubs. They need two starters, not just one, and their usual way is to build the best positional team and hope average or slightly better starters can win with superb support. *Odds: 20-1*

7. Red Sox. They haven't yet been linked to Skubal, and they already have excellent starting pitching. But Garrett Crochet is out, and it would be like them to

pull off a sneaky strike. *Odds: 25-1*

8. Field. The Yankees put in a call, but their rotation already is as good as anyone's, and they have other needs. The Padres stand as MLB's most aggressive team, and they do need a starter. The Diamondbacks can surprise you, too. *Odds: 12-1**

**(The total odds don't quite add up to 100 percent since there's still a remote chance he stays.)*

3 AL East teams seek backstops

THE YANKEES have been engaged on top available catchers Adley Rutschman and Hunter Goodman.

Ultimately, Tyler Stephenson may be easier to get.

Other catchers who may be available include Liam Hicks, Luis Torrens, Jonah Heim, Keibert Ruiz and Bo Naylor.

Goodman is still said to be "less than 50-50" to go.

The Rays, Red Sox, Rangers and White Sox are also looking at catchers.

The Dodgers might be, too, depending on the prognosis of star catcher Will Smith (neck), who's probably out until September.

The Mets are getting some interest in Francisco Alvarez. But it's a tough call for them whether to trade Alvarez since they still see his big potential along with the frustrating lapses.

They also probably couldn't get what they wanted since there are better catchers available (Goodman and Rutschman).

The Yankees have not seemed to be interested in Alvarez.

The Yankees have always loved Clay Holmes. If they acquired Holmes, they could move Ryan Weathers to the bullpen.

Peralta market picking up, and Robert could draw interest, too

THE INTEREST picked up enough in Freddy Peralta to scratch him from his start Friday.

Some teams believe they can get more out of Peralta than the Mets have.

The Cubs and Rays have been linked to Peralta. The Cubs already helped transform David Peterson, thanks partly to better defense.

Other proven starters

being discussed include Clay Holmes, Reid Detmers, José Soriano, Casey Mize, Brady Singer, Foster Griffin and Trevor Rogers.

Teams are asking about Logan Webb and Hunter Greene. But they aren't that likely to move.

The Pirates are among teams playing on Luke Weaver, who might be the best reliever available now that superstar Padres

closer Mason Miller seems only semi-available.

Luis Robert Jr. is aiding his value by playing well since his return. It doesn't hurt that teams are desperate for righty bats in a very weak market.

Some other righty hitters available include Lane Thomas, Jorge Soler, Jo Adell, George Springer and presumably Gleyber Torres.

The Yankees like Springer. But they prefer an OF, and he's played only one game in the outfield this year.

Springer also has 10-and-5 veto power and can reject trades. Which he might do to the Yankees.

Many other teams are looking for righty bats including the Guardians, Rangers, Red Sox and Phillies.

Texas is still considering catching help, plus a back-end rotation piece.

The Astros seek a lefty hitter. So CF Daulton Varsho and OF Mickey Moniak could fit Houston.

The Astros were called about star SS Jeremy Peña. And word is, they said no.

The same is believed to be the case with star Nats SS CJ Abrams. Not available.

With those star shortstops seemingly unavailable, Zach Neto's value should rise.

Rivals are convinced at least one or two of Neto plus controllable Angels pitchers Detmers and Soriano will go.

The Braves are among teams believed to like Soriano. They are also thought to be considering Mize.

By JAMES FRANNEY

FIFA's controversial plan to sell a piece of its business empire to outside investors has collapsed following an open revolt by soccer officials worldwide — and a major rift among top FIFA executives, The Post has learned.

FIFA had aimed to raise up to \$4.2 billion by selling a roughly 20 percent stake in the group, valuing the new arm at \$20 billion. The deal, which involved a firm run by New York venture capitalist Joshua Kushner, is dead, four sources familiar with the matter said.

"They are not feeling this. There is no way they want to continue to be involved in this mess," said a source briefed on the collapsed deal. "Kushner will figure out another way to get involved in this space. This is becoming a brand nightmare."

Kushner is the brother of Jared Kushner, the White House diplomatic adviser and son-in-law of President Trump.

Following initial publication of The Post's exclusive, FIFA President Gianni Infantino confirmed the plan's failure.

It "has created divisions of

Soc'd in the face

Widespread global outrage forces FIFA to scrap \$20B World Cup sell-off plan

a nature that, regardless of the level of support, are no longer in the interest of the objective set out in the first place," he told Sky News. "As a result, this proposal will not proceed."

The unraveling caps a brutal week for Infantino, who pushed the plan to spin off FIFA's commercial rights into a new for-profit arm that drew howls of protest across Europe and a slew of overwhelmingly negative media coverage. The failed proposal called for FIFA, a nonprofit under Swiss law, to transfer its cash-making assets — TV rights, sponsor deals, licensing and ticketing — into a new entity called FIFA Forward Enterprise.

Kushner's firm, Thrive Capital, was set to anchor the deal, with JPMorgan advising.

Infantino gave FIFA's 211 member nations until Sept. 19 to back the deal, dangling payouts of up to \$40 million each. Critics called it a bribe with a deadline.

But FIFA and its bankers badly misread the mood in Europe, where the sport's richest clubs and leagues bring in most of the game's revenue.

"This would be the [temporary] end of global football," one insider close to Infantino said.

UEFA's threat was blunt: None of its teams would play in any FIFA event until the plan was scrapped in full — and until FIFA promised never again to open the game to private owners.



GIANNI INFANTINO
FIFA president

Without stars from England, Spain, France, Germany and Italy, a World Cup loses its audience. Broadcasters won't pay top dollar, and sponsors will pull their cash. That gutted the deal's value.

"They tested the waters and have a clear response," one source, speaking on condition of anonymity, close to Infantino told The Post.

Thrive already has begun talks about dropping the idea, three sources said. JPMorgan does not expect the deal to go through, according to the insiders closing their files.

"They don't believe Kushner will stay the course,"

said one person directly briefed on the matter. "They are pulling the plug."

Even as the deal collapsed behind the scenes, FIFA publicly insisted Friday that "nobody is selling football."

With outside money off the table, FIFA will keep selling its own rights in-house, pointing to its money-spinning haul from this summer's 48-team World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

One source close to the ill-fated deal said the Zurich-based organization could try a way of "formalizing and using their assets in a commercial way" through its existing nonprofit entity.

"I think they are trying to professionalize some of aspects of world football," the person briefed on the matter said.

The deal's death sends a clear message to private equity firms circling global sports: Soccer's political walls remain high.

The debacle now threatens Infantino's grip on the presidency. European soccer chiefs threatened to boycott the World Cup and other events. Members of FIFA's North American bloc, Concacaf, rejected the plan. Friday, the Asian Football Confederation joined the opposition.

The backlash also reached Infantino's inner circle.

FIFA COO Kevin Lamour told The Associated Press on Friday that senior staff felt "deceived" by Infantino's lack of transparency.

"The project that has sparked so much controversy and debate is not a FIFA project," Lamour said. "It is the project of one person."

Lamour blasted a "lie by omission over many months," adding that the ordeal showed "a lack of trust, a lack of transparency, a lack of discernment, a lack of good governance. And a serious lack of respect."

He acknowledged his outspokenness could lead to his firing. "Then so be it," he said. "At least I'll sleep well tonight."

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In his first 95 plate appearances in his age-24 rookie season, Spencer Jones hit .179 with four homers, a .608 OPS and struck out in 44.2 percent of his plate appearances.

Oh wait, that was Aaron Judge.

You might have forgotten about that two-month cameo in 2016 that was so uninspiring that Judge went to spring training the following year having to win right field in a competition against Aaron Hicks. What he had was the knowledge from those 95 plate appearances of what major league pitching looked like. He went to his hitting laboratory in the offseason and emerged with a swing that is going to take him to Cooperstown.



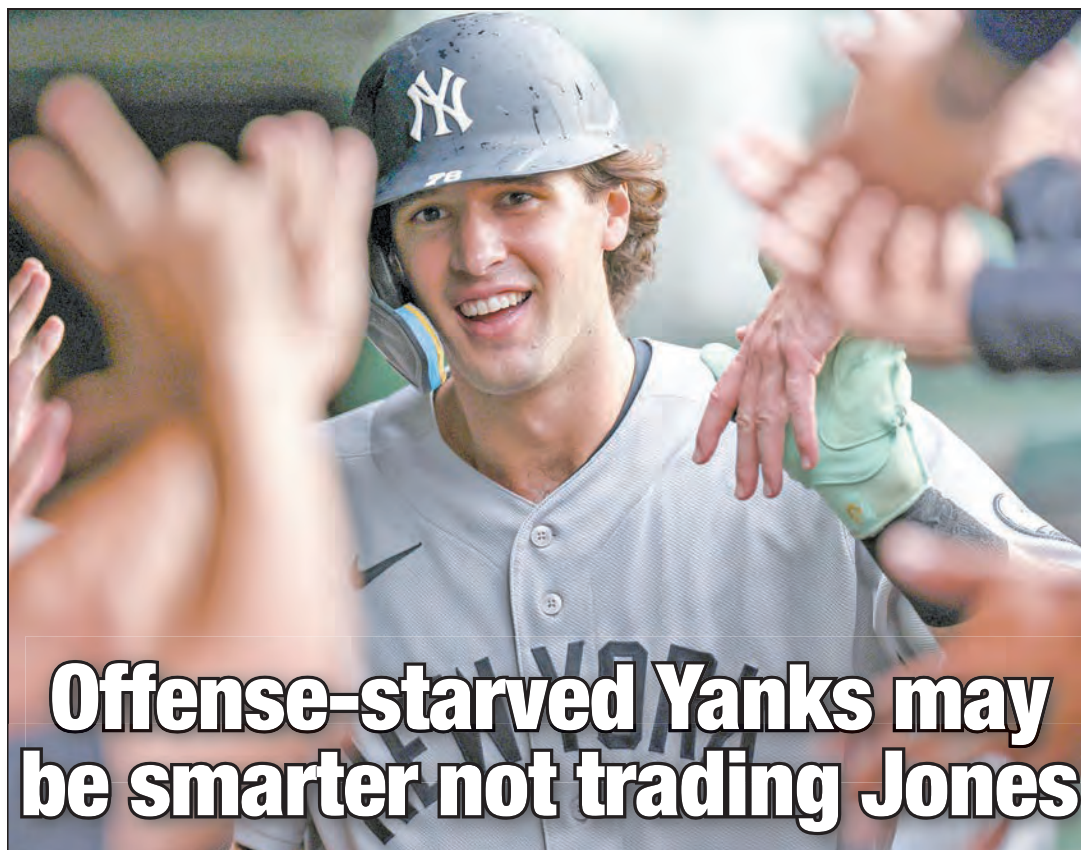
Joel Sherman

When Jones reached 95 plate appearances after Wednesday's game, in his age-25 season, he was hitting .226 with three homers, a .697 OPS and had struck out in 40 percent of his plate appearances. You might not have noticed as he is yo-yoing up and down, but Jones is learning. His at-bats are getting better, including another homer Friday in a 2-0 win over the Cubs.

Jones' curse has been to be compared to Judge, which is all-time unfair considering that Judge is one of the greatest hitters ever. His chances of being even 75 percent of Judge are not great. But aren't you a little more curious to see now? As the trade deadline approaches are sellers watching the athleticism and power, curious what 500 uninterrupted plate appearances might bring? Is 75 percent of Judge possible, and what might the Yankees acquire from a team that wants to find out?

Because the Yankees drafted Jones with the 25th pick in 2022 for the same reason they did Judge with the 32nd pick in 2013 — when selecting that late in the first round and there is a 6-foot-7 athlete whose bat makes the ball explode, you take the gamble.

FOR KEEPS?



Offense-starved Yanks may be smarter not trading Jones

DEAL HIM IN: Spencer Jones could land a big return for the Yankees at the trade deadline, but maybe the team is better off allowing him to continue his growth as a potential MLB star in pinstripes. AP

Because Judge was no meteor through the Yankees system. He had 1,513 plate appearances before reaching The Show, producing a slash line of .277/.371/.471 and never climbing higher than 53rd on Baseball America's prospect list before the 2015 season, then 76th, then 90th after that 2016 MLB cameo.

Jones has 1,924 minor league plate appearances with a slash line of .272/.354/.497. He reached the No. 46 prospect before the 2024 season and fell out of the top 100 the past two years.

Like with a lot of teams, there is

a lot of Miguel Andujar/Clint Frazier hype and hope with the Yankees that devolves into the reality that most prospects fail because of how hard the game is. Baseball America had Anthony Volpe as the overall No. 10 prospect before the 2022 season and Jasson Domínguez at No. 14 before 2024.

It is a fascinating time for the trio because with Judge, Cody Bellinger and Giancarlo Stanton out, the Yankees are counting greatly on Jones, Domínguez and Volpe. And yet, it would not be a shock if one (or maybe more) were traded by 6 p.m. Monday.

Because the offense is in a spiral that is wasting brilliant pitching. The Yankees have managed more than five runs just three times in the last 38 games, totaling 128 runs in that time, their fewest in 38 games within a season since Aug. 10-Sept. 20, 2014 (125 runs). The only reason the Yankees are not in huge playoff peril is the pitching — in the last two weeks they have won seven games when scoring three or fewer runs.

Jones on Friday hit his first MLB homer off a lefty (Shota Imamura) and also had a walk off reliever Tyler Ferguson after falling

behind 0-2. It is such a small sample size since his latest return (seven games, two homers, two steals, three walks, five strikeouts, 20 plate appearances). But this offense needs a spark right now. Thus, Jones should play against all pitching.

And to me, he has the best chance vs. Domínguez/Volpe to actually emerge as an above-average player. Domínguez might never be The Martian, but he can be a 20-homer/20-steal type, though his iffy baseball IQ and defense are hindrances. The defensive metrics rate Volpe high again at short, and he has been fine. But he still has too little arm to convert enough backhands from the hole and turn every double play that must be made. The Yanks can win with him — he was the shortstop on the AL champs in 2024. But it is a tougher road.

He has been hurt by playing shortstop and growing up a Yankees fan and wanting it to work here so badly. A move to second base outside of the New York expectations could elicit a productive Caleb Durbin-type player who can help a team win regularly.

That Jones can defend and run gives him a chance to be what the Yankees thought they were getting with Joey Gallo — low batting average and lots of strikeouts, but also lots of homers, walks, steals and glove work. He might not get there, but a current non-contender could give him the runway to find out.

Or maybe the Yankees should. They really need him in this moment; plus Trent Grisham is a free agent after the season. It would be amazing if Jones could follow even some of Judge's path. But it would be a Yankee victory if they just got the Joey Gallo at this deadline that they believed they were landing five years ago.

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Pirates could be in on Mets relievers Brazobán, Weaver

By JOEL SHERMAN

The Mets have multiple relievers to trade. The Pirates need multiple relievers and among those they are at least curious about are Huascar Brazobán and Luke Weaver. The Post has learned.

The Mets began Thursday night what could be the biggest sell-off in the ma-

jors before Monday's deadline by trading a reliever, A.J. Minter, to the Twins for prospect infielders Bruin Agbayani and Billy Amick.

Teams that have been talking to the Mets anticipate that they are likely to follow a traditional path for sellers — clear their walk-year players such as Minter and fellow lefty reliever Brooks Raley. Freddy Per-

alta was scheduled to start Friday night against the Marlins, but with interest in him picking up, the Mets scratched him. Clay Holmes is currently scheduled to start Sunday, perhaps still in the minors. Righty-hitting outfielders Luis Robert Jr. and Tyrone Taylor also are in their walk years.

The anticipation is that

this would create time and greater focus for David Stearns to see if the Mets can ratchet up a return that would motivate trading players currently excelling and with control beyond this year, notably Brazobán and Weaver.

Of course, there is no script. This was just multiple executives assessing where the Mets stand. And

all of them said they perceive that the Mets are open on Brazobán and Weaver. And the interest for those relievers extends well beyond Pittsburgh.

The Pirates have closed this year with mainly Gregory Soto, the lefty who struggled so much for the Mets last year after he was obtained at the deadline. So, Weaver — if acquired —

would be very much in play to close for Pittsburgh, which is viewed as having a strong farm system.

Pittsburgh's 4.38 ERA ranked 22nd in the majors and they have struggled from the pen with walks and inducing ground balls, areas that Brazobán and Weaver have been strong at this year as by far the best Mets relievers.



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PROTECT THE

Trade bait Peralta scratched from start as turbulent Mets tenure likely at end

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Freddy Peralta, in all likelihood, has thrown his final pitch with the Mets, who protected their trade-deadline bait.

Originally scheduled to start Friday at Citi Field against the Marlins, Peralta was scratched about five hours before first pitch to ensure he did not suffer an injury that would harm his value. Kodai Senga, who had not pitched in nearly two weeks, got the ball instead and generally pitched well in a 5-2 loss to the Marlins at Citi Field.

"As talks have intensified — and I wouldn't get into characterizing where they are at this point in time — it just became a prudent path for us," said interim manager Andy Green, whose club already had begun its expected fire sale by trading lefty A.J. Minter to the Twins late Thursday night.

Another walk-year southpaw, Brooks Raley, is certain to go. Less certain but possible bullpen goners are Luke Weaver and Huascar Brazobán, whose prices are higher because they are under contractual control for one more year and three

more years, respectively. Clay Holmes likely will be shipped off. Luis Robert Jr. and Tyrone Taylor also will be shopped.

None of the above is a surprise to those on the outside or inside, but a clubhouse without Minter and Peralta watching from the dugout on a night when he was supposed to pitch were the first concrete signs of the destruction that is to come by Monday's deadline.

"Marcus [Semien] said it best earlier," Francisco Lindor said after homering in the loss. "He said that we have to win every game, and you never know what can happen, so that's the mentality here."

"Everybody's trying to focus on winning."

That "everybody" soon will not include Peralta, who "wants to pitch" but is "also smart, and he understands it," Green said about how Peralta handled the news.

In what amounted to an exit interview after his last start with the Mets, a four-inning, three-run effort against the Dodgers on Sunday, Peralta said he was grateful to the team for his half-season in Queens, said everyone in the organization has

"been amazing" and took ownership over a campaign that has not gone according to plan for the pitcher or the team.

"I know so far I've let them down," Peralta said. "I haven't done what I'm supposed to do."

The Mets sent two consensus top 100 prospects — Jett Williams and Brandon Sproat — to the Brewers for Peralta in January, believing an ace from David Stearns' past would front their rotation and guide the way to October. Instead, Peralta's ERA has swelled from 2.70 last season to 4.99 this year. In his 22 starts, he has recorded an out in the seventh inning one time (and did not complete six innings in his last eight outings). Among 63 qualified pitchers entering Friday, Peralta was rated as the ninth least valuable in baseball, according to FanGraphs. He has been a problem, if not *the* problem, for a team with far too many.

But his expected numbers, including an expected 3.83 ERA, have outpaced his actual numbers. Though Peralta's velocity has been slightly down from last season, it is possible the bigger factor has been a defense behind him that could not compare

with the defenders he was accustomed to in Milwaukee, where he was an All-Star twice and held a cumulative 3.30 ERA from 2021-25.

That means Stearns and Co. are in the awkward position of convincing potential trade partners that the team, and not the player, is more at fault for his rough results.

"I know that I can be way better than this," the 30-year-old Peralta said last week, which might have been targeted toward teams interested in him at the deadline or in his impending free agency. "I know I have a lot in me, a lot to show."

"I know it can change because I still have time to make it change."

If his results change, what became nearly official Friday was that another team would be the beneficiary.

PUT HIM IN THE BOOKS? Mets

starter Freddy Peralta had been scheduled to pitch Friday night but was scratched hours before his team faced the Marlins, heralding the end to his brief, underwhelming time in Queens as the franchise sought to avoid any injuries before Monday's trade deadline.

Jason Szenes

Senga solid at last, but Fish hook 'em

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

If Kodai Senga had pitched like this all season, the Mets would have one more enticing trade chip.

Then again, if Senga had pitched like this all season, the Mets probably would not be collecting all their trade chips to off-load.

Informed just hours before first pitch that he would be on the mound in place of the scratched Freddy Peralta, Senga reminded everyone he is still on the team while showing off some of the best stuff he has possessed all year.

In his first outing in nearly two weeks Friday night, he dominated for four innings before fading, argu-

**MARLINS 5
METS 2** **Boxscore
Page 30**

ably the most potent the right-hander has looked since his season-opening quality start against the Cardinals back on March 31.

"I think he was phenomenal today for a guy who hasn't been out there for [13] days," interim manager Andy Green said after the 5-2 loss to the Marlins. "You can't ask for anything more."

Of course, the uptick in stuff arrived long after Mets season unofficially ended. And it ultimately did not matter in a game in which his stat line was skewed upon leaving. Not that the results matter much, with the 33,064

fans at Citi Field more entertained by the superhero renderings on the scoreboard than the action on the field.

The Mets will not have Peralta after Monday. They probably will not have Clay Holmes, either. Sean Manaea, Nolan McLean, Christian Scott and Zac Thornton are near certainties to remain. Jonah Tong and Tobias Myers are on the 40-man roster with Triple-A Syracuse, and perhaps prospects Jack Wenninger or Jonathan Santucci could pitch their way to relevance.

There will be intrigue to see whether a rotation spot will be reserved for Senga,

who will pitch "meaningful innings for us the rest of the way," Green said, though he stopped short of guaranteeing those innings would come as a starter.

Senga, who on Friday pitched four innings with three runs allowed on two hits and two walks with four strikeouts, lost his job following a June 23 start against the Cubs — after which his ERA was 10.08 — and was shifted to the bullpen, where he has been as invisible as his ghost forkball.

But as long as Senga is showing flashes of the All-Star he was in 2023, there will be reason to give him

chances to prove the talent still can be extracted. Add in the fact Senga is due \$15 million next season, and the Mets might be incentivized in August and September to learn if they can count on competence from him next year.

"What he did today," Green said, "showed that the guy we've known is in there is still in there."

Perhaps this is the first step toward Senga proving himself all over again. Perhaps this is another step forward that will be followed by a step back, as has been too often the case with Senga.

msanchez@nypost.com



Kodai Senga

Imagn Images

ASSET



Agbayani swells with pride as son joins Mets

By MOLLIE WALKER

Benny Agbayani was shocked.

He did not expect his 19-year-old son, Bruin, would be traded by the Twins ahead of Monday's deadline, and the former Met couldn't even conceive that a prospective trade would be to the team and city to which he endeared himself a quarter century ago.

"It means a lot," said the 54-year-old on a conference call Friday, hours after his youngest of three children — and the only boy — was dealt to the Mets in Minnesota's trade for reliever A.J. Minter. "He wanted to get drafted by the Mets when he was first coming out of high school. That's all he knew, and that's all we talked about. It's a great opportunity for him. I'm just going to support him as much as I can."

"I'm going to tell him the ins and outs of playing in New York because it's tough."

The elder Agbayani couldn't be more proud of his son potentially continuing his Mets legacy, one cemented by the home run he hit in the 13th inning of Game 3 in the 2000 NL Division Series against the Giants.

The Mets had scouted Bruin a bit during his draft year, including at an organizationally run workout in California, according to his dad.

Ultimately, the Twins selected him last year in the sixth round out of St. Louis School in Honolulu.

Benny's support of his son's dream reached new heights when he began a taxing job as a ramp agent at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in 2014. The unlimited free flights he received from his company helped fund his children's athletic pursuits. He still works there to this day.

"They started playing ball in the mainland, and we wanted them to get exposed," Benny said of his job. "Just experience the growing up and just competing. I told them that's

ON DECK: vs. Marlins

Saturday, 4:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

LHP Zac Thornton	RHP Tyler Phillips
 2026 stats: 2-1, 2.43 ERA Career vs. MIA: First appearance Last start: Mon., vs. ATL: 6.1 IP, 3 ER, 5 K	 2026 stats: 2-5, 3.52 ERA Career vs. NYM: 0-1, 1.76 ERA Last start: Mon., vs. PHI: 5 IP, 2 ER, 5 K
PITCH BREAKDOWN	PITCH BREAKDOWN
27% 4-Seamer 26% Cutter 16% Sweeper	25% Sinker 24% Sweeper 23% Splitter

UP NEXT	SUNDAY: vs. Marlins, 1:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ TBD vs. RHP Sandy Alcantara
	TUESDAY: at Guardians, 6:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ LHP Sean Manaea vs. LHP Joey Cantillo

INJURY REPORT
■ Clay Holmes (fractured fibula) threw a side session Friday. He plans to pitch Sunday, though whether that's in the majors — or even with the Mets — remains unclear. ■ Cionel Pérez (left forearm strain) was placed on the 15-day IL.

what they needed. They needed to know how to compete. I'm glad it paid off."

Just the thought of his son taking the field in a Mets jersey made Agbayani emotional.

Though he inherited his dad's power hitting, Bruin is a left-handed infielder rather than a right-handed outfielder like his father. Benny believes he's "growing into his swing" and is "a better hitter than me."

Considering Agbayani hit .282 with an .833 OPS over 322 games with the Mets, the organization sure hopes his assessment of his son — who was named the Hawaii Gatorade Player of the Year prior to being drafted — is accurate.

While the family surely is enjoying this moment, the prospect has been limited to

only 10 games this season due to a right shoulder injury. His dad assured on Friday that he's "on his way back."

Until then, the famous "Hawaiian Punch" has plenty of advice to share with his son from his days playing in Flushing.

"He couldn't believe how the Mets fans treated me and things like that," Benny said of his son's perception of his time as a Met. "I was like, 'Sonny, you just got to play good.' The Mets fans want to win, and that's what you go out there for. You're going to lose some; you're going to win some. Just as long as you know that you're giving your best effort out there every day."

mwalker1@nypost.com

AMAZIN' FAMILY: Benny Agbayani, who played for the Mets from 1998-01, is over the moon that his son Bruin has a chance to follow in his father's footsteps to Queens.

Corey Sipkin



GETTING THE WIN IN WINDY CITY: Will Warren pitched into the seventh inning, giving up four hits and walking none while striking out seven against the Cubs on Friday. Warren didn't need much from the lineup, which provided two solo home runs — the second of which was from Spencer Jones (inset) — in the 2-0 Yankees victory.

AP; Getty Images



FLIPPING OUT: Amed Rosario tosses his bat after absolutely destroying a pitch from the Cubs' Shota Imanaga in the fourth inning Friday to give the Yankees a 1-0 lead.

AP

450-foot blast hit by Rosario 2nd-longest by Yank this season

By GREG JOYCE

CHICAGO — Amed Rosario is a hardworking veteran and a valuable resource for some younger teammates, but at the end of the day, he is on the Yankees to crush lefties.

Too often of late, though, especially at a time when they are missing some of their best hitters against lefties, he has not been able to do that.

But Rosario picked a big spot to provide another jolt against a southpaw, taking Cubs lefty Shota Imanaga deep to spark the Yankees in a 2-0 win Friday afternoon at Wrigley Field.

"He's capable of that," manager Aaron Boone said. "We need his presence against these lefties."

In his first 50 plate appearances of the season against lefties (through May 26), Rosario was hitting .273 with an .888 OPS. But in 66 plate appearances against lefties since then, entering Friday, he was batting just .161 with a .454 OPS. The struggles were noticeable in particular because he has usually been batting first or third against lefties, as the Yankees carry on without Aaron Judge, Cody Bellinger and Giancarlo Stanton.

Rosario's 450-foot shot in the fourth inning — the second-longest home run by any Yankee this season — was

their first base runner against Imanaga, who had retired the first 11 batters in a row. It was set up by his 11-pitch battle in the top of the first, which Imanaga ended up winning on a strikeout, but not before Rosario fouled off six pitches while working the count full, which later paid dividends.

"I definitely think it helped, not just me but also my teammates," Rosario said through an interpreter. "Being able to have a good at-bat, long at-bat allowed me to see all the pitches."

It was also the only bit of resistance the Yankees showed their first time through the lineup against Imanaga, who cruised early, before Rosario and Spencer Jones homered the second time through.

"We've had too [many] of those innings where a pitcher's gone through in 10, 12 pitches, whatever it is," Boone said. "It's hard to score. It's hard, on given nights, to keep putting crooked numbers up. But those are the kind of at-bats that can pay off for you as the game unfolds."

If the weather allows, the Yankees are scheduled to face another lefty Saturday in ex-Met David Peterson — the seventh lefty starting against them in a nine-game stretch — offering Rosario a chance to build some momentum after Friday's blast.

he 'is OK' after hamstringing scare

Chisholm first started experiencing the cramps in the bottom of the eighth inning Thursday against the White Sox, then pulled up early running to first base on a groundout in the ninth. He was hobbling around and stretching out his right leg the rest of the

game before being pinch run for by Caballero in the 11th after he was intentionally walked.

The Yankees already have Aaron Judge, Cody Bellinger and Giancarlo Stanton on the injured list and cannot afford another key player joining them,

even though Chisholm is in the midst of an inconsistent season.

► Judge and Stanton were with the Yankees for their series against the White Sox at Rate Field, but left Thursday to head back to New

York to continue their respective rehabs.

► **Clarke Schmidt** threw another live bullpen session Friday at Double-A Somerset as he continues his comeback from Tommy John surgery.

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**WHAT TO
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CHAMPAGNE PROBLEMS

Heather Dubrow dishes on 'RHOC' Season 20

By **KAREN KEMMERLE** and
ERICA WATTS

Heather Dubrow is proud to celebrate 20 years of **"The Real Housewives of Orange County."** Since joining the show back in Season 7, Dubrow has fascinated viewers with her charm, elegance, and lifestyle choices. Heather has been married to Dr. Terry Dubrow for 27 years, and the Dubrows have proven to be that rare reality TV couple who actually enjoy each other. Even though she took off Seasons 11-16, the multi-hyphenate never forgot all the things that the success of the series has given her. "Through this platform, we've been able to highlight our homes, which has led to amazing real estate transactions," said Dubrow. "We've been able to highlight our skincare, our supplement line, our podcasts, books, YouTube channels, all the things."



However, the audience is her favorite part of her association with the longest-running Bravo franchise. She notes how much she looks forward to meeting fans at BravoCon each year. "These people watch our lives and experiences, and it means a lot to them," said Dubrow. "I'm just so grateful for the community we've built together."

Dubrow is also proud of the fact that she and her cast-mates can show viewers that "people can move forward" with each other. "We deal with a lot of conflict and resolution on this show," said Dubrow.

One point of contention this season between Dubrow and the other women is her loyalty to Tamra Judge. While her co-stars may be quick to condemn Judge for her recent bad behavior, Dubrow always holds a special place in her heart for Judge. "Tamra was the first person I met on the show," said Dubrow. "I just saw her as a fellow mom, and I fell in love with her."

Earlier this season, Dubrow was very "frustrated" with Jennifer Pedranti for telling Judge that Heather was bad-mouthing her behind her back. "Between seasons, we hung out with our husbands, and we went out to dinner," said Dubrow of her budding friendship with Pedranti. "The moment the cameras pick up, she's asking me things like, 'How do you feel about Tamra? What do you think about Tamra?'"

DECIDER recently caught up with Dubrow over champagne at The Four Seasons to talk about the season so far, discuss whether or not her son Nicky will be part of a rumored Bravo spinoff series, and more.

DECIDER: As corny as it sounds, watching "The Real Housewives of Orange County" really

WHAT TO WATCH

"Leviticus" is an Australian horror movie that follows Naim (**Joe Bird**, left) and Ryan (Stacy Clausen), two teenage boys in a secret romance. Both become haunted by a violent supernatural entity, summoned by members of their church, that takes on the form of the person they most desire — each other. The movie excels in suspense; it leans more toward psychological and metaphorical horror rather than relying on cheap jump-scares, but it's also genuinely romantic.



Center: Heather Dubrow.
Left: Emily Simpson, Gina Kirschenheiter, and Dubrow.
Right: Jennifer Pedranti, Dubrow, Simpson, and Kirschenheiter.

Koury Angelo/Bravo

does bring people together. HEATHER DUBROW: This is kind of a joke, but I always say half the people watch us because they want to be us, and half the people watch because they're glad they're not us. I do think it's interesting. We deal with a lot of conflict and resolution on this show. This show does prove that people can move forward.

It's still pretty early in the season, but who do you think will have the most to answer for when the reunion comes around?

I think a lot of the girls think that would be me. Here's what I would say to them. This is who I am. I'm not perfect. I do my best. I don't wanna give anything away, but I feel like sometimes there's a double standard on our show and within our friend group—like what I just said about Vicki and Tamra versus Heather and Tamra. I'm curious to see how that's highlighted.

You can neither confirm nor deny, but there are rumors that Nicky might be filming for a little show called "Next Gen LA."

I cannot confirm or deny that, but I will say I think he's well-suited for it.

What are three pieces of advice you could give to him or anyone about going into reality TV?

Obviously, authenticity is what works. You have to just be yourself. Also, when you think you're smarter than the show, you've lost. The last thing I would say is don't sell anything right away. Go on the show, do your thing, figure it out, relax into it, be yourself, and then monetize it later [laughs].



TRENDING NOW

Billie Eilish's (left) concert film, **"Billie Eilish – Hit Me Hard And Soft: The Tour (Live),"** will begin streaming on Paramount+ on Aug. 6. We're certainly "happier than ever" about this news.



Getty

WHAT'S NEW

ON DISCOVERY

"Great White Highway," a "Shark Week" 2026 documentary.

ON LIFETIME

"Killer Clown," a psychological thriller (left).



What's on Tonight



ROMANCE

Forrest Gump: 3:30 p.m. on PARMT. Tom Hanks, Sally Field. The life of a man with an IQ of 75, who years to be reunited with his childhood sweetheart.



THRILLER

John Wick: 7 p.m. on AMC. Keanu Reeves, Adrienne Palicki. A former hitman grieving the loss of his true love, is forced to return to action to exact revenge.



DRAMA

Edward Scissorhands: 11:35 p.m. on FREFRM. Johnny Depp, Winona Ryder. An unfinished creation leaves his isolated castle and enters a suburban world.

Saturday August 1, 2026

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Weekend News	Entertainment Tonight (R)		Harlan Coben's Final Twist: No Sign of Nancy (R)		48 Hours: The Footprint (R)		48 Hours		CBS News 11pm	1JD Films Presents
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Paid Program	LX.TV: 1st Look	American Ninja Warrior: Central Regional Qualifying 2 (R)			Dateline NBC		News 4 New York at 11	Saturday Night Live	
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at Chicago Cubs from Wrigley Field. Live.						The 10 O'Clock News		Fear Factor: House of Fear: 48 Hours of (R)	
7 WABC	7	7	7	(6:00) News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	The Rookie: Spy Games (R)		The Rookie: The Thinker (R)		The Rookie: Tiger Bear (R)		Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) TMZ	Extra		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Finally Caught: Triano (R)		In Depth: Roy Williams	Wonderama
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	PBR Team Series: Oklahoma City Live.			PIX11 News at Ten		Seinfeld	Seinfeld: Unbonding	
13 WNET	13	13	13	GZero World	Ireland in Music	Inspector George Gently: Gently Between the Lines		Mr. Mom (1983, Comedy) Michael Keaton. PG ★★½		(10:36) Rob Reiner: The Director		(11:26) Mr. Mom (1983)		
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Compass	Drive By	Firing Line	Midsomer Murders		(9:35) Velvet		TBA		TBA	
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Walkin NYC	Hospitality and Politics		92Y on NYCLife		Letter of Introduction (1938) NR ★★		Mack	Profiles	GZero	
31 WPXN	31	3	531	NWSL Soccer Live.	(8:45) NWSL Soccer: Seattle Reign at Bay FC. Live.			NWSL Live.		Law & Order: SVU				
41 WXTV	41	6	41	Fútbol Liga MX: Tigres UANL vs Querétaro.	Fútbol Liga MX: Monterrey vs Atlas F.C..					Fútbol Liga MX				
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Dateline: Lo que pasó en Las Vegas			Los indestructibles 4 (2023, Acción) Jason Statham. R		Noticiero		Noticias		
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Pawn Stars	Last Man	Last Man	Fire Country		NCIS: Hawai'i	Judge Judy	Paid	Women Wrestling		
A&E	46	46	181	Storage (R)	Storage Wars: Back (R)		Storage Wars: Back (R)		(10:01) Storage Wars (R)		(11:04) Storage Wars (R)			
AMC	54	43	231	Book of Eli	John Wick (2014, Action) Keanu Reeves. R ★★½			(9:15) John Wick: Chapter 2 (2017, Action) Keanu Reeves, Common. R ★★½						
BBCAM	71	101	189	Hot Shots!	Major League (1989, Comedy) Tom Berenger. R ★★			Major League II (1994, Comedy) Charlie Sheen. PG ★★½						
BET	37	54	270	Equalizer	The Equalizer		The Equalizer: Decisions		Training Day (2001, Drama) Denzel Washington. R ★★½					
BRAVO	18	44	185	Twister (1996, Drama) Helen Hunt. ★★½	F9 (2021, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★½					Twister (1996) PG-13 ★★½				
CNBC	15	24	102	Greed (R)	American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)			
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		Real Time with		The Eighties		To Be Announced			
COMEDY	45	50	190	Dirty Grandpa (2016, Comedy) Robert De Niro. R ★★½	(8:45) Billy Madison (1995, Comedy) Adam Sandler.			(10:45) Step Brothers (2008, Comedy) R						
DISC	66	27	120	(6:00) TBA	Biggest Mako on Earth		Great White Highway		Thresher Shark: Stun to		Red, White and Breach			
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Big City	Big City	Dragon	Dragon	(9:35) Kiff	Phineas	Phineas	Miraculous	Miraculous	
E!	24	51	196	(5:30) Grown Ups 2 (2013, Comedy) ★★	Grown Ups (2010, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★½			Grown Ups 2 (2013, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★						
ESPN	28	36	70	(6:00) ESPN Films	Banana Bal		Banana Ball: Texas Tailgaters vs. Party Animals Live.			SportsCenter		SportsCenter		
ESPN2	29	35	74	(6:00) Cornhole League Live.	USL Soccer Live.			World Long Drive Tour		SEC Storied				
FBN	43	106	117	Dream Car	My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car			
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show	Life, Liberty & Levin			My View with Lara Trump		Fox News Saturday Night		Gutfeld! (R)		
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	
FREE	38	49	199	Jungle Cruise (2021, Adventure) Dwayne Johnson.	(8:25) Cruella (2021, Comedy) Emma Stone,			Emma Thompson. PG-13 ★★					Edward	
FS1	400	99	83	MLB Game	Major League Pickleball: Orlando: Saturday Live.			The Pokerstars		Football		MLS Soccer Live.		
FX	10	40	53	Indiana ★★★	National Treasure (2004, Adventure) Nicolas Cage. PG ★★★					National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007) PG ★★★				
HALL		191	240	Love, Romance & Chocolate (2019) ★★½	Toast to Italy (2026)			Royal Matchmaker (2018) Bethany Joy Lenz. NR ★★★						
HGTV	64	98	165	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	My Rental	My Rental	
HIST	40	47	128	Oak Island	Oak Island (R)		Oak Island: Road Trip (R)		(9:02) Oak Island (R)		(10:05) Oak Island (R)			
ID	23	171	123	Joe Kenda	Detective with Lt. Kenda		Betrayed: Suited Murder		Betrayed: Pretty in Black		Murder in the Wetlands			
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) Kidnapped by a Killer (2025) NR	Killer Clown (2026)			(10:03) The Girl Who Survived (2025) NR						
MeTV	33	33	3	Stooges	Stooges	Stooges	Captain Kronos: Vampire Hunter (1974, Horror) Horst Janson. R ★★½			Batman		Star Trek: Patterns Force		
MSG	27	87	78	NY Giants	USL Soccer			MSG Shorts	MSG Shorts	MSG Shorts	MSG PM	United Fight Alliance		
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(6:00) To Be Announced: Program information is currently unavailable.										
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	The Weekend		The Weekend		Crooked on MS NOW		Rachel Maddow		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	The Hangover (2009, Comedy) Bradley Cooper. ★★½			(9:20) The Hangover Part II (2011, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms. R ★★						
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	Sonic ★★★	Sing 2 (2021, Family) Matthew McConaughey. PG ★★½			Friends		Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) Heart	Heart & Hustle: Houston		Heart & Hustle: Houston		Belle Collective		Belle Collective		Heart & Hustle: Houston	
PARMT	36	56	54	Gump ★★★★★	Cast Away (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks. PG-13 ★★½					Forrest Gump (1994) Tom Hanks. ★★★★★				
SNY	26	60	77	MLB Game	Post Game	Yeah ...	Broadway Boxing: Broadway Boxing 2402 Replay.			Mets Specials		Sports	Sports	
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:30) Predator (1987, Science Fiction)	Wrath of the Titans (2012, Action) Sam Worthington.			Deep Blue Sea (1999, Thriller) Saffron Burrows. R ★★½						
TBS	8	39	52	(5:30) Road House (2024, Action) R	The Equalizer 2 (2018, Action) Denzel Washington. R ★★			(10:21) The Equalizer (2014, Action) ★★						
TCM	82	41	230	Please Don't Eat the Daisies (1960) ★★½	Lover Come Back (1961, Comedy) Rock Hudson. ★★			Midnight Lace (1960, Thriller) Doris Day. NR ★★½						
TLC	52	28	139	Jay & Pam	Jay & Pamela (R)		Baylen Out Loud (R)		Baylen Out Loud (R)		Baylen Out Loud (R)			
TNT	3	37	51	Jurassic World (2015) ★★	Ringside			The Fight: Lamont Roach Jr. vs. William Zepeda: from Virgin Hotels Las Vegas. Live.						
TVLAND	85	34	241	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	Chicago PD	Chicago P.D.: Reckoning		Chicago P.D.: Informant		Chicago P.D.: Mercy		(10:03) Chicago P.D.		Chicago P.D.: Intimate	
VH1	19	52	217	Wild N Out	Wild N Out		30 Minutes or Less (2011, Comedy) Jesse Eisenberg.			Ace Ventura: Pet Detective		(1994) Jim Carrey. ★★		
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Switch		NCIS: The Voyeur's Web		NCIS: Honor Code		NCIS: Under Covers		NCIS: Frame Up	
YES	53	89	76	Talkin'	Yankees Classics: Best of Old-Timers' Day Replay.			Nets Pod	Home Plate	Postgame	Homegrown	Talkin'	Moments of	
HBO	511	301	400	Blockers (2018, Comedy) Leslie Mann.	The Drama (2026, Romance) Zendaya.			House of the Dragon: Faceless Men (R)		Life Larry		Mickey 17		
MAX	531	371	420	(5:37) Wonka (2023) ★★	(7:34) Batman (1989, Action) Jack Nicholson, Michael Keaton. PG-13 ★★								Batman ★★	
MGM Plus	595	395	545	Fury (2014, Action) Brad Pitt. ★★½	Pearl Harbor (2001, Action) Ben Affleck. PG-13 ★★½					(11:05) The Patriot (2000)				
PARSHO	551	321	365	(6:50) The Bodyguard (1992, Romance) Kevin Costner. R ★★½	You're Dating a Narcissist (2026)					He's Just Not That Into You (2009) ★★½				

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After falling on his butt trying a backflip at Fanatics Fest, Giants running back Cam Skattebo says he's going to put his patented celebration move on the backburner.

P. SCHWARTZ / P. 40-41

CAM FLIP FLOPS

Giant says he'll stop his sideshow act — at least off the field



WHERE THERE'S A WILL ...

WARREN DAZZLES AS
YANKS BLANK CUBS

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